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UN to debate Jerusalem expansion
 Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Sheikh Yousef Salama (left) director of the Waqf, look at maps of the government's Jerusalem expansion plan, during a conference titled "Jerusalem in Danger" in Gaza yesterday. The United Nations Security Council is scheduled to meet today to consider Arab demands that Israel cancel the plan. Story, Page 2 (AP)

In unprecedented move Weizman calls for early election

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

In a planned, unprecedented and highly contentious move, President Ezer Weizman yesterday called for early elections, citing the state of the peace process and the failure of the initiative to hold a referendum on a new pullback from the West Bank.

In media interviews yesterday, Weizman voiced thinly-veiled criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, thus bringing the rivalry between the two to new peaks. "The peace process is limping," Weizman said yesterday morning. "It's not progressing. There are no contacts with the Palestinians or the Americans. If the prime minister isn't going for a referendum, he must hold early elections - the sooner the better," he said.

Netanyahu immediately rejected the call, saying the elections will be held as scheduled, in two years' time, on time, and Weizman, speaking later on Channel 1's Mabat, responded in a dismissive manner. "So he [Netanyahu] said! He also said there would be a referendum." In an interview later to Channel 1's Mabat news, Weizman said



Weizman: Open rift with PM (AP)

Netanyahu had told him again and again the pullout was a matter of a week or two. He then stated he

Meretz to submit bill on early elections, Page 3

would not help Netanyahu any more. "[If he didn't mean to implement the pullout] why did he ask me to talk to US Secretary of

State Madeleine Albright, to special envoy Dennis Ross, to influence King Hussein, to try to talk to [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat, to go twice to [Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak and once to call Mubarak to ask him to receive him [Netanyahu] nicely - which I didn't do - and to talk to MKs Dan Meridor and David Levy?" Weizman asked.

He stressed that his call for early elections was not a slip of the tongue. "Understand, once and for all, there are no slips of the tongue. I've been planning it for some time and waited for the appropriate opportunity," Weizman said.

He said it was the prime minister's right to raise the referendum idea and drop it, but if he really wants to know what the people think, he must hold elections.

The confrontation continued on Channel 1's news last night, when Weizman was asked to comment on Netanyahu's reaction regarding the elections. Weizman said "so he said. He also said there'd be a referendum." Weizman estimated the elections would take place before the year 2000.

See WEIZMAN, Page 2

Knesset defense committee chairman Landau: Mordechai stalling doctrine overhaul

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is dragging his feet on updating the nation's outdated defense doctrine, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Uzi Landau charged yesterday.

Mordechai, however, quickly replied that his office would soon present a revised defense doctrine to the government and Landau's committee for approval.

Earlier this week, Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i said that Israel's defense doctrine was no longer adequate in an age of missiles and non-conventional weapons.

Landau said his committee had

asked Mordechai over 18 months ago to submit the IDF's updated defense doctrine for it to review.

"Suddenly it became clear that there was no such thing," Landau told Israel Radio. "Since then the minister has been running [working] groups. I think too much time has passed, and I believe we should see at least their interim results and see how far they have come."

Until now, the strategic doctrine has been based on deterrence, warning, subduing and interdiction. Attempts have been made in the past to introduce a long-term plan, but the strategic doctrine remains essentially unchanged since originally drafted in the

1950s.

Landau said that drafting a defense doctrine is not just the job of the Defense Ministry but of the entire cabinet.

He said it was important for ministers to understand the threats facing Israel so that they would allocate more of the budget toward defense.

Landau added he was glad Vilna'i finally made the matter public.

"I am sorry that there have been no generals in the General Staff who stood up before the defense minister and prime minister in their meetings and simply said that the absence of a clear updated defense doctrine has very grave

ramifications on the organization of the army, on the allocation of funds and on the way commanders think," Landau said.

Landau said the country's defense doctrine now consists of nothing but loosely formed concepts "handed down by word of mouth."

Mordechai has been heading what has been called a "think forum" that is the brainchild of his top adviser David Ivry. The closed-door forums include IDF brass, police, Mossad, and General Security Service officers, as well as academics and senior current and former government officials.

See DOCTRINE, Page 2

Coalition gears to thwart Barak's yeshiva-student conscription bill

By LIAT COLLINS and DAN IZENBERG

The Ministerial Committee on Legislation yesterday decided to recommend to the cabinet that it oppose Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's bill to draft yeshiva students, the Justice Ministry announced yesterday.

"This sensitive issue must be resolved by consensus, not by an arbitrary law," said Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

The bill is due to be debated in preliminary reading in the Knesset within the next few weeks.

If the cabinet opposes a bill, a minister who supports it in a plenum vote would have to resign.

According to the Justice Ministry statement, the ministerial committee was influenced in its decision by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's opposition to the bill.

Barak's proposal calls for limiting the number of army exemptions granted to yeshiva students to 700 per year. Today, there is no limit on the number of exemptions.

The date when Barak's bill will come up for preliminary reading is still unknown, because MK

Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) is threatening to appeal the decision by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to vote on the bill next Wednesday, a week after Labor originally planned.

An appeal can be filed within two weeks, and then the issue will be referred to the Knesset House Committee, chaired by Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi. This brings the possible date closer to the end of the Knesset summer session on July 29.

The hardy MKs have not yet decided how to proceed and are weighing two options - trying to postpone the bill until late October, when the Knesset reconvenes after the summer break, or trying to defeat it before the recess.

Defeating it before the recess would mean that no similar bill could be raised for nearly nine months, as the six-month period which must elapse between similar or identical bills does not include the break.

"We are still debating what to do," said Gafni. "There are those who say we have a majority to defeat this irresponsible bill, but I don't think it should be raised before its time."

Gafni said he would base an appeal on the fact that Barak's bill is similar to one by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg calling for compulsory draft or national service.

That bill failed in late March, just before the spring recess.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said he would announce today at the start of the plenum session whether an agreement has been reached with all the factions enabling the bill to be raised this week as Labor wanted.

Tichon said if all the faction heads in the Knesset agreed, he could shorten the waiting period and allow the bill to come up this week, but Likud whip Meir Sheerit and National Religious Party whip Shmaryahu Ben-Tzur both rejected this possibility yesterday.

Nonetheless, hardy sources said that both the prime minister and Shas leader Aryeh Deri favor allowing the bill to come up before the recess and ensuring the coalition defeats it.

In a meeting with parliamentary reporters, Tichon said he had not consulted with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on postponing the bill to next week.

The postponement contradicts the opinion of Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar that the bill could be raised.

"The prime minister did not make a request on the matter, and I would not be surprised if my opinion actually contradicts his," Tichon said.

Tichon blasted Barak for his criticism that he had acted out of political considerations when he ruled the bill must wait until next week.

See BARAK, Page 2

Jobless rate 8.8%

By DAVID HARRIS

Unemployment rose in April to a seasonally adjusted 8.8 percent, its highest level since the end of 1993, according to initial figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

"This percentage may well not be the final figure for the month; it is a trend figure or indicator," cautioned bureau spokesman David Neumann.

However, the data reflect a trend this year of unemployment rising from 8.3% in January to 8.7% by March, with the first-quarter average - seen by the bureau as being the most solid statistic - standing at 8.4%.

The details for the entire second quarter are expected to be published at the end of August, said Neumann.

While the jobless total continues to rise, so does the number of people working, reflecting the country's overall demographic expansion.

During the first quarter, the number of employed increased 1%, a rise similar to those seen throughout last year.

The data published yesterday also pointed to increases in retail sales, trade exports and incoming tourism.

There were also increases in industrial production and imported goods destined for investments in the statistics which cover April and, in some cases, May.

See JOBLESS, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

IAF raids Hizbullah positions in Lebanon

IAF jets attacked Hizbullah positions in southern Lebanon yesterday after a roadside bomb killed two South Lebanon Army soldiers. There was no word on casualties from the afternoon raid in the area in the mountains just north of Jezzine. Earlier, a roadside bomb exploded near an SLA position at Toumat Niha, said the officials, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack. AP

Israel asks PA to hand over murder suspects

Israel asked the Palestinian Authority yesterday to hand over three Palestinians suspected of shooting to death an Israeli taxi driver in 1997, a Justice Ministry spokeswoman said. "Israel asked the Palestinian Authority to transfer three men suspected of murdering a taxi driver last year. This brings to 36 the number of people we have asked the Authority to hand over," she said. The men are suspected of forcing the driver at gunpoint to travel towards Jericho before shooting him and fleeing. Reuters

School psychologists stop sanctions

After more than two months of sanctions by the country's school psychologists, the psychologists and the local authorities have agreed to submit the ongoing salary dispute to arbitration. As a result, the psychologists have stopped their sanctions. Jerusalem Post Staff

Arafat loyalists trying to force US Arabs out of Al-Bireh house

By STEVE RODAN

Fatah activists loyal to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat sprayed gunfire and hurled firebombs at the Al-Bireh home of a Palestinian-American family over the weekend in an attempt to drive them away, eyewitnesses said yesterday. PA police did not intervene and Fatah militants later threatened to retaliate against neighbors who reported the attack, witnesses said.

The violence capped a year-long effort by Fatah to expel the Sumrean family from its three-story house and replace it with the Fatah-aligned Marde family, one of whose members is suspected of killing a Jewish settler several years ago.

"They told us, 'You go back to America. This house belongs to us,'" Nidaq Sumrean said.

Members of the Sumrean family, as well as their neighbors, asserted that on Friday night and Saturday morning, Fatah militants hurled firebombs and fired shots at the Al-Bireh house. They also hurled canisters of tear gas.

"We heard shots all night," a neighbor of the Sumreans said. "The tear gas prevented the family from escaping the house. The Fatah people wouldn't let anybody leave. Meanwhile, they were shooting at the house and the roof. Later, they came to us and warned us not to tell anybody what happened."

Eyewitnesses and members of the Sumrean family said PA Police failed to respond to phone calls to stop the shooting. The police did arrive when they were summoned by an officer at the nearby Ramallah headquarters of Arafat's Force 17 praetorian guard who heard the shooting. The police later left on the orders of the Fatah activists.

Human-rights activists and a senior Fatah activist confirmed the clash.

"We have examined the issue and obtained testimonies and details from the families, which we have corroborated," said Bassam Eid, director of Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. Tariq Marde said he was not at the house during the attack. He said his family was not trying to drive out the Sumreans and insisted the feud had been resolved.

The feud between the Sumreans and Marde families has lasted for at least a decade. The Sumreans built the house on their land off the Jerusalem-Nablus highway in 1962, but seven years later, while the family was abroad, the Marde, refugees from the 1967 Six Day War, moved into it. The Sumreans allowed the Marde to stay and built additional floors to accommodate both families.

Last year, two Fatah representatives arrived at the Sumrean home and demanded that they leave the house, family members said. They said that the Marde deserved the rest of the building because one of their children, Omar Mustafa Marde, was a member of the Fatah gang that murdered Beit El settler Haim Mizrahi in October 1993 and fled to Jordan, which the Fatah representatives said made him a national hero.

On May 14, the two families came to blows. PA police took complaints from both families and a hearing was scheduled for the Ramallah District Court on June 16. But the Marde didn't appear and the court and police said they did not have copies of the complaints. The court also failed to address charges by the Sumreans that the Marde had refused to pay rent for seven years.

Members of the Sumrean family maintain that PA Police and the Ramallah military governor's office have refused to act on their complaints against the Fatah attacks inspired by the Marde family.

Instead, two of the Sumreans, Nadir and Nidaq, the first a US Defense Department employee and the other a US Air Force member, have been accused of being troublemakers and have been threatened with long prison sentences.

Nadiv quoted deputy Ramallah military governor Saeb Nassar as telling him on June 26, "You Americans are making problems. I can throw you in jail for one year." Nidaq was forced to sign a pledge that he would be fined 2,000 Jordanian dinars, about \$3,000, unless he stopped harassing the Marde.

The Marde did not sign a similar pledge. The Sumreans said they appealed to Palestinian Legislative Council member and West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghout to end the attacks by his men. Barghout was said to have pledged to help.

But Barghout said yesterday he did not know of such an appeal, although he confirmed the weekend attack on the Sumrean home. The Sumrean family also appealed to the US Consulate in Jerusalem. A consulate spokeswoman said last night that federal privacy laws do not allow her to discuss the case.

Eid said the episode is one of a growing number of incidents in which families connected to the centers of power use PA gunmen to carry out their will. He said in cases in which one party is close to PA or Fatah officials, neither Palestinian police nor the prosecutor will intervene. Instead, authorities recommend mediation, usually by the very same PA official or organization connected with one of the feuding parties.

PM urges US to veto UN resolution

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

NEW YORK - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that the US should "do the right thing," implying it should thwart a UN Security Council resolution that would condemn Israel's plan to expand Jerusalem's boundaries.

However, there was increasing speculation that the US would support a softened version of the council resolution when the UN Security Council begins its debate today.

If the Security Council votes to condemn Israel, it would be the first time in four years, since Baruch Goldstein murdered 29 Palestinian worshippers on

February 25, 1994.

The council voted on March 18, 1994, to "strongly condemn the massacre in Hebron and its aftermath which took the lives of more than 50 Palestinian civilians and injured several hundred others."

The Jerusalem expansion plan has drawn sharp American, European and Arab criticism. The US State Department has described it as "provocative."

The US, which has veto power on the 15-member council, previously had been reluctant to condemn Israel in the UN, arguing that disputes between Israel and the Palestinian Authority must be resolved in talks between the parties.

At the Israeli Mission to the UN, a spokesman said Israel and the PA

should engage in bilateral talks.

"Instead, we repeatedly witness Palestinian political exercises that abuse the UN by forcing it to intervene in the bilateral negotiating process."

The Security Council debate is expected to last for several days. A separate measure - to upgrade the PLO's observer status at the UN - is scheduled for a vote next week in the General Assembly.

Last spring, the US twice vetoed a resolution in which the Security Council would have opposed the Israeli plan to build 6,500 housing units at Har Homa.

In non-binding votes, the General Assembly condemned Har Homa and subsequently convened a series of extraordinary emergency sessions that both

denounced Israeli expansion plans and assailed the "paralysis" of the Security Council.

Washington cannot afford to veto a condemnation of Israel, observers suggested. The previous American vetoes have cost the US some of its political capital and left it unable to muster support when it tried last week to delay a council session on the Jerusalem expansion.

In the Security Council, a draft resolution which began circulating last week would condemn the Jerusalem expansion plan and demand it be rescinded.

It also calls on Israel "to refrain from all actions of measures, including settlement activities, which are illegal" and could interfere with future talks on the status

of Jerusalem. The draft also calls on the parties to fulfill their obligations and commitments under their existing agreements.

At a news conference in Jerusalem with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, Netanyahu said: "I didn't ask the United States to impose a veto. I expect the United States to do the right thing, and it knows what the right thing is."

Observers suggested that even if the US ultimately vetoes the resolution, the Palestinians will have won a significant propaganda victory.

More than 60 nations are expected to take part in the debate, and virtually all are expected to be critical - some mildly, others emphatically - of Israel.

PM attends Ateret Kohanim benefit

By AMY KLEIN and ELLI WOHLGELER

MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz) called on members of the coalition to bring down the government at a demonstration protesting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's appearance at an Ateret Kohanim-sponsored concert in Jerusalem last night. Carrying torches and holding placards that read "Bibi - bad for the Jews," approximately 1,000 people marched from the prime minister's house toward Jaffa Gate, as part of the demonstration, which was sponsored by Peace Now and Meretz.

Five hundred meters away at Sultan's Pool, Netanyahu addressed an audience of 6,000 attending an Abraham Fried concert and declared: "As the permanent landlords of Jerusalem, we will build more housing for Jews and Arabs." When people in the crowd screamed "Death to the Arabs," Netanyahu rebuffed them, saying: "Jerusalem is a city of peace, but with us controlling it."

"Jerusalem is a city of a thousand Jews and a thousand opinions. We have so many protests every day the city should be called 'Haifanistan,'" Netanyahu added, playing on the Hebrew word *haifana* (protest).

Netanyahu's appearance at the Ateret Kohanim concert, said Sarid, "is an extremely radical event as there has never been before." Sarid called the yeshiva, "explosive material" charging that the prime minister was the "fuse" and that together, they would bring "an explosion in Jerusalem."

At a pre-concert reception at Hutzot Hayotzer, MK Benny Elon (Moldeed) said that the event "was held to celebrate the Jewish people's continued presence in Jerusalem. I want there to be so many Jews living in the eastern section of Jerusalem that it won't feel like Baghdad, but a Jewish city."

The recent flurry of activity in the Old City, said executive director of Ateret Kohanim, Yossi Baumeil, is in response to the murder on May 6 of student Haim Kerman. "We must step up our activities in the Old City to show that they can't keep us away," Baumeil said.

Gil Hoffman contributed to this report

Settlers' council fails to agree on whether to topple government

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

An emergency board meeting held by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza yesterday, called to decide whether to try and topple the government, failed to produce any results except to highlight members' frustration over the current situation.

The meeting was held at the protest tent city set up by settlers outside the Prime Minister's Office.

Some council members straying from the agenda voiced their outrage over President Ezer Weizman's remarks calling for new elections and demanded he resign. Others demanded to do away with the presidency altogether.

While making no decisions on how to proceed, the majority agreed that any council-sponsored measures must be non-violent.

Prior to the meeting, National Religious Party MKs met with council members at the site, which they visited to show support for the families there.

Council members had expected the MKs to express staunch support for the current campaign calling on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to demand Palestinian compliance before agreeing to any withdrawal.

But instead, they were greeted with an array of reactions that only accentuated the party's confusion, with some calling to topple the government and others took a "wait and see" stance.



NRP MK Avner Shaki, part of a delegation of party MKs and other officials, addresses settlers in the protest tent camp outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday. (Brian Heister)

Meanwhile, the recently established organization Telkumeh, set up by Beit El Mayor Ilri Arieli, Rabbi Menachem Felix and Ya'akov Katz declared its intention to run in the next Knesset elections if any redeployment takes place.

Their declaration was aimed at the NRP, which, they said, should threaten to leave the government instead of dallying, and also

directed at the council, which, they said, should take a harsher stand against the government and call to topple it.

"It is regrettable that among us are extremists threatening to establish an alternative party," said NRP MK Shmaryahu Ben-Tzur.

MK Avner Shaki, however, declared that the members came to

the tent site to declare their staunch support and strengthen the settlers.

"The NRP will stand firmly behind you [the settlers] in your struggle; there is no other party who played such an important role in getting Netanyahu elected," he said.

He warned that if the government decides to go ahead with

Hamas terrorists get 25, 18 years

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Lod Military Court sentenced two Hamas members to 25 years and 18 years in prison for carrying out a terrorist attack in the former Tel Aviv central bus station and planning to kidnap Israelis.

Mohammed Ibrahim Hamada, 21, of Sur Bahir in Jerusalem, was sentenced to 25 years. His relative Samer Mussa Hamada, 20, also from Sur Bahir, was sentenced to 18 years. The two were arrested by security forces last August right before they had planned to carry out a terrorist attack in the Jerusalem Mall.

Mohammed Ibrahim Hamada joined Hamas' military wing in December 1996 and subsequently recruited Samer Mussa Hamada, Nur Kasam, Mohamud Khalil Hamada and Khaled Mohammed Bakir.

According to the court, Mohammed Ibrahim Hamada was involved in all the cell's activities, including the bombing in Tel Aviv, and coordinated the activities with Hamas leaders. In January 1997, two cell members placed explosives in garbage cans near the former Tel Aviv central bus station. The bombs exploded, injuring 12 people.

The cell's aim was to carry out terrorist attacks in Israel and provide

Hamas leaders with information about densely populated areas that could be targeted in future attacks.

In addition, the cell planned to abduct IDF soldiers, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, former MKs, judges and the guards stationed outside National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's residence in the Moslem Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City. They intended to use them as bargaining chips to gain the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Ibrahim Hamada, according to the court, asked a cell member to locate Olmert's residence and identify Olmert's vehicle.

The cell also planned to stage traffic accidents with military or police vehicles and then abduct them.

Cell members also planned to carry out a bomb attack in the Jerusalem Mall. They filled a bag with old clothing and left it near the cinema in the mall to check the alertness of the security workers there.

The Lod Military Court sentenced Mohammed Khalil Hamada to four years' imprisonment in March for his role in the activities. Bakir was given a 20-month prison sentence plus six months' suspended "as part of a plea bargain in March. Kasam still is being tried.

WEIZMAN

Continued from Page 1

Asked whether he trusted believed Netanyahu, Weizman responded, "...that's not a nice question. What's between myself and the prime minister is my business." He then said there are "personal problems" between himself

and Netanyahu, noting that for the past four weeks they had not talked to each other, even by telephone.

Weizman denied bearing a grudge against Netanyahu because the latter had campaigned against him for presidency, saying, "He made a mistake. The proof of that is, he lost. 'It wasn't pleasant for

me to contend against the prime minister, but I don't bear a grudge. I remember it, though." Weizman said he now expects the parties to pick up the baton and act to advance the elections. As for the confrontation with Netanyahu, he said, "I'm a veteran warrior. A few shots have been fired. When the dust settles down, we'll see what's

happening. If I decide I have to do something more, I will." On Channel 2, Weizman was asked what would happen now that he had "thrown this bombshell." Weizman replied: "What bomb? I threw a hand grenade."

Netanyahu did not mention the president's name in his response. After consulting with his advisers,

he decided not to comment directly on Weizman's statements. Netanyahu stressed he is acting day and night to formulate a good agreement with the Palestinians, one that would ensure the security of Israel's citizens. No person or pressure would divert him from this goal, he said.

JOBLESS

Continued from Page 1

There was an annualized 10% increase in the number of foreign visitors arriving here in May, after a 4% rise in April.

These increases are the first since the end of 1995, several months before another spate of suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv dealt a blow to the

tourism industry.

The number of Israelis staying in domestic hotels also increased in May by an annual 10%, but this was a slower growth pace than that seen between January and April (25% - 31%).

Industrial production varied considerably during the first third of the year but averaged a yearly 7%-8% growth, compared to 2% throughout 1997.

Key increases were registered in the first quarter in the plastics and chemicals industries. Imported goods destined for investments in industry increased 15% in May after a 10% rise in April and 3% in March. This followed decreases between September and February.

On the other hand, there was an annualized 4%-5% fall in imports of materials used in production processes.

Meanwhile, Israel's short-term foreign debt has stabilized at \$8.5 billion since the start of 1997 through March this year, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday. This compares to an average \$4.3b. from 1990 to 1996.

Since the start of the decade, short-term debt has remained at a constant percentage of the overall foreign debt, said outgoing banks supervisor Ze'ev Abeles.

DOCTRINE

Continued from Page 1

It was only in January that Ivry finally convened his first defense forum. Since then meetings have been held periodically.

"Never has a more serious and fundamental work been done to develop a defense doctrine," Mordechai said. "I intend to present a written defense doctrine for approval. It will perhaps be the first time in history."

Ivry told Israel Radio yesterday

that last week the forum concluded the first stage in a series of discussions and was formulating its conclusions. He said there are now five groups, made up mostly of civilians, preparing drafts in various fields such as politics and economics, etc., and that these would be integrated into one final defense doctrine.

The IDF has been begging for a renewed defense doctrine, but the politicians have been so far loathe to develop one, because it requires answering questions they would

prefer to avoid, like what are the boundaries of the state that must be defended and what are the parameters of strategic depth.

"A defense policy is a political concept," Ivry said.

"It is built on a number of fundamental factors. Will there be democratization in the region? Will poverty increase or decrease? Birth rates? Unemployment rates? Education levels? In addition to this, what are the threats? Will there be more weapons of mass destruction?"

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BEN-ZION SPECTOR 57

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Shiva at the home of the deceased, 8a Rehov Calanot, Haifa, Tel. 04-838-3394

Address for telegrams: 8a Rehov Calanot, Haifa.

BARAK

Continued from Page 1

"If Barak had not gotten hot-headed about it and not rushed to bring the bill up this week, but had agreed to move the discussion to next week, everything would have been possible," Tichon said. "Now he and his people first attacked me and only later understood what a parliamentary bind they were in."

Tichon based his ruling on an amendment to the Knesset House Rules under which if a bill fails, the six-month period which must elapse before similar or identical bills can be raised does not include recess periods.

Coincidentally, this amendment itself came into force December 3, 1997, the day a bill by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) on drafting yeshiva students failed preliminary

reading. Tichon said the bills by Barak and Cohen are basically the same, with both calling for a compulsory draft.

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Oron: Meretz to submit bill tomorrow for early elections

By LIAT COLLINS

Following President Weizman's call for early elections yesterday, Meretz whip Haim Oron said his party would raise a bill tomorrow calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and the holding of early elections.

"The president is expressing the feeling of the majority of the public according to which the Netanyahu government is cheating everyone, playing for time and going nowhere," Oron said. "Therefore the time has come to dissolve the Knesset."

The bill would require the support of 61 MKs to pass.

Labor whip Eli Goldschmidt asked Oron to coordinate the move with Labor, because if the bill is defeated no similar bill can be raised for at least six months. Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon,

whose position calls for him to be acting president when Weizman is out of the country, said Weizman had spoken to him three weeks ago about the possibility of early elections because of the stalemate in the peace process.

"I suggested he shelve the idea until the end of the summer," Tichon said.

Tichon criticized Weizman for calling for the elections, saying it is "taking a clear political stand in a controversial political matter and it is not his affair."

Likud MKs and ministers also criticized him for both the contents of his message and the fact he said it.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, chairman of the Likud Secretariat, described Weizman as "acting like the Labor party's political partner."

Tsomet leader and Agriculture

and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, however, said he supports the idea of holding early elections rather than holding a plebiscite.

He said a public referendum would "be like bursting a dam, and after that there would be referendums in every field - social, economic and political, in effect bypassing the work of the elected institutions."

National Religious Party leader and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said "Weizman has gone beyond [accepted] limits. I am concerned by this type of intervention. The government works according to the mandate it received from the people who elected it. The people did not elect the president, the Knesset did."

Labor dedicated much of its weekly faction meeting to Weizman's statement. Labor leader Ehud Barak described elec-

tions as "the true public referendum."

Barak said the prime minister's policy is one of "acrobatics."

"The diplomatic process is stuck, but Netanyahu raises new empty promises every week," he said. "The president spoke, as always, from his heart."

But Labor MK Uzi Baram said Weizman should run for a political office if he wants to be a politician.

MKs from the Third Way and Yisrael Ba'aliya, which are coalition parties, did not rule out the idea of early elections but said the initiative should not have come from Weizman.

Answering several motions in the Knesset on the plebiscite idea, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said the government would decide on whether or not to hold a referendum.



Spanish PM at Yad Vashem

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, left, lays a wreath with help from unidentified officials at the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem yesterday. Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, who is scheduled to meet Aznar today, originally boycotted Aznar's official reception because he had not included a visit to the Knesset as is customary.

(Text: Liat Collins. Photo: AP 1)

President's assault is more than just shooting from the lip

Ezer Weizman, runs the conventional wisdom, will just be Ezer Weizman. He's brash, blunt and avuncular. An Israeli original. A man who says what he thinks, when he thinks it. A shooter from the hip, a taker of no prisoners.

When the president criticized the Rabin government for moving too fast on the peace process, the consensus opinion was, "That's just the way Ezer is, he speaks his mind."

Same reaction when he talked about slapping women or his negative view of homosexuals or - more recently - his call on US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to pressure Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This straight-talking style has always been part of the president's charm, part of his appeal. Weizman's free-wheeling pronouncements seemed an accurate extension of his personality - a personality that poll after poll shows most Israelis find endearing.

But, said David Nahmias, head of Tel Aviv University's Public Policy program and a fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, this approach to the president and his

involvement in politics is much too simplistic.

There is much more to the president's declarations than just an extension of this one-of-the-boys personality, Nahmias maintained.

Weizman's interference in politics, an interference unprecedented for an Israeli president, is not just a product of his personality, but also a product of the new system of elections and government, which has essentially rendered the prime minister a leader without any effective, true opposition.

It is into this vacuum, Nahmias said, that the president has thrust himself. "There is no precedent to the way the president is speaking," Nahmias said. "I think he feels something very serious and problematic is happening here. I personally do not think we would have reached this level of presidential interference were it not for direct elections of the prime minister."

Nahmias said one cannot fairly compare the level of Weizman's criticism of the Rabin government, before direct elections of the prime minister, to the level of his criticism against the present government.

"Today it is much more intensive, much more harsh," Nahmias said. The reason, he maintained, is there is no effective check on the prime minister.

Today, according to Nahmias, the prime minister has no effective opposition, because of the new system of government. "There are essentially no more no-confidence votes [now that 61 votes are needed to bring the government down], it is also only hypothetical to get

IN CONTEXT

By HERB KEINON

80 MKs [to depose the prime minister] - so who serves as a check?"

The president's meddling would have been unnecessary under the old system of government, when a simple majority could topple the government, because then the

Knesset would have forced the government to take decisions, Nahmias maintained.

But under the current system, he said, the Knesset, the opposition and the cabinet are all impotent. "This is what the president is saying," Nahmias said. "That it is impossible to run the country this way. He is saying to call new elections, because there is no government, there are no decisions."

As to the significance of

Weizman's comments, Nahmias said, "We know that the president has no political power; his comment is another form of public protest."

As a protest, Weizman's comments are significant, said Haifa University political science professor Asher Arian, because much of the country listens and pays attention to what the president has to say.

"This has to be taken seriously,"

Arian said, "because Weizman is a central player. But if you ask me if it will influence Netanyahu, I would say no. He is a central player but is not effective. He has no troops in the Knesset. In the short term his effectiveness is limited - I think this will all pass in three days. But in the long term, other voices could be added to the president's call and something could come of it."

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

New ideas

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to hold an international conference to discuss Middle East peace, in the style of the Madrid conference, provoked cynical responses by the press, which interpreted it as the premier's next stalling tactic, especially following the referendum proposal which has apparently been dropped from his agenda.

"We are amidst a political revolution that the world has not known since the Athenians invented the democracy," writes Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid. "We are the first society in history to introduce gimmickratic rule."

Chemi Shalev, also of Ma'ariv wonders how Netanyahu's advisers give him such bad ideas "without thinking for a moment that it will provoke enormous rage, scorn and derision [against the prime minister]."

Moshe Zak in Ma'ariv, while admitting that he does not support

international conferences in the Middle East, says that both Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's automatic objection is irrational, and he accuses them of thinking that any proposal Israel has must be flawed.

Ending the dispute

"I believe that we must put an end to the dispute over territories in Israel and urgently start discussing the image of our society," declares Bambi Sheleg in Ma'ariv.

She claims that although she opposes the Oslo Accords and believes that they are dangerous, she is willing to vote for a 13% withdrawal only because she thinks that this is what the majority of the nation wants and that the government focus should be shifted to dealing with social issues that are just as significant, such as the increasing violence in society.

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Despite opposition of both Netanyahu, Barak

MKs prepare to rescind PM's direct election

By DAN IZENBERG

The Knesset Law Committee yesterday began to prepare for first reading the draft of a bill calling for the cancellation of the Direct Election of Prime Ministers Law, even though the leaders of both major parties oppose it.

Hanan Porat said the fact that the bill, initiated by MKs Uzi Landau (Likud) and Yossi Beilin (Labor), passed in preliminary reading last month by a vote of 50-45, proved "there is a true debate that cuts across party lines and cannot be swept under the rug."

Former MKs Uriel Lynn and Yoash Tsiddon, and MK Amnon Rubinstein, who, together with former justice minister David Liba'i initiated the 1992 law, attended the meeting.

Other participants included former defense minister Moshe Arens, head of a non-profit organization seeking to repeal the law; Uriel Reichmann, head of the Constitution for Israel movement which backed the Direct Election of Prime Ministers Law; and Arik Carmon, head of the Israel Democracy Institute, which opposes the current law.

Landau warned that the Direct Election of Prime Ministers Law, which was implemented for the first time in the 1996 elections, had destroyed the system of two main parties representing national interests, backed by a few satellite parties, and created "fragments of parties."

He also charged that the law had not eliminated political extortion. Beilin said the law passed only because then-Labor Party chairman Yitzhak Rabin and current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, then an MK, believed it would win them the premiership.

"That kind of thinking is mistaken from the start," said Beilin. He added that the law had weakened the government and the Knesset and turned the vote of no confidence into a mockery. Lynn said he shuddered when reading the draft of the new bill, remembering the crisis of 1990, when MKs were bought and sold and the public demonstrated in the streets against the parliamentary system.



State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat hands her last Ombudsman's Report to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon in the Knesset yesterday. The report is the last one produced by Ben-Porat, who is being replaced tomorrow by Eliezer Goldberg. (Isaac Harari)

35% of complaints to ombudsman justified

By DAN IZENBERG

In her 10 years of service as the state ombudsman, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat investigated 15,000 complaints by the public.

Yesterday, she presented her final annual Ombudsman's Report to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon. Tomorrow, the Knesset will install Supreme Court Justice Eliezer Goldberg as Ben-Porat's successor.

In her introduction to the 25th Annual Ombudsman's Report, Ben-Porat wrote that the amount of complaints she has handled "is an impressive number by all accounts. Unfortunately, it is too high compared to several advanced countries in the world and testifies to the exceptionally high number of improper actions carried out by our public servants."

In 1996-97, the ombudsman received 6,921 complaints from private citizens and finished investigating 3,994. Thirty-five percent

of these complaints were justified, she found.

Ben-Porat wrote that her office also handled 46 complaints submitted by legislators, including 19 from MK Ran Cohen (Meretz).

One of the complaints was submitted by a Licensing Bureau tester who was fired after complaining that he did not have enough driving experience on a two-wheeled vehicle to test candidates for motorcycle and scooter licenses.

When he was hired, the tester did not have a license for driving two-wheeled vehicles and was told to get one. As soon as he received his license, his superiors ordered him to test motorcycle driving students.

He told them he wasn't yet able to drive a motorcycle and test students at the same time and asked to be allowed to test students while driving his car. As a result, he was fired.

The ombudsman wrote that the dismissal was unjustified, and ordered the Licensing Bureau to

rehire him and pay him his salary for the time he was out of work.

The ombudsman also ordered the Customs and VAT department to pay NIS 6,000 compensation to

a woman who lost her job after refusing to sign a petition drafted by her boss, calling for the dismissal of the head of the workers committee.

Ben-Porat laments unfinished Tze'elim-2 report

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat told Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday that she could have finished her report on the Tze'elim-2 training accident, in which five soldiers were killed and six wounded, had the Knesset been willing to pass a law giving her three months after her retirement to complete the job.

"It's too bad the Knesset did not agree," she said.

Ben-Porat also told Tichon that Labor Party leader Ehud Barak had "begged her to declare that he had behaved humanely with regard to the sol-

diers who were wounded in the accident."

There have been reports that Barak left the scene before the wounded soldiers were evacuated instead of overseeing the evacuation. Ben-Porat said she could not ascertain the truth in this matter and therefore could not decide which of the versions was correct.

In response, Barak's aides said he has not talked to Ben-Porat for several months. They also said Barak was sorry that she had not completed her report on Tze'elim-2. Dan Izenberg

Supreme Court cancels reduction of Meshulam's sentence

By DAN IZENBERG

A panel of seven Supreme Court justices yesterday accepted the state's appeal and restored the eight-year prison sentence originally meted out by Tel Aviv District Court to Uzi Meshulam and reduced to six-and-a-half years in a previous decision by a smaller panel of justices. Meshulam also was sentenced to two-years' suspended.

Six of the seven justices, including Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, who reversed his previous decision, supported the majority opinion. Justice Dalia Dorner voted to reject the state's appeal.

All seven judges rejected Meshulam's appeal to repeal his conviction.

In the original decision of the Tel Aviv District Court, Meshulam and 11 of his followers were jointly found guilty of conspiracy to commit a crime, disturbing an officer of the law in the line of duty, attempted assault in aggravated circumstances, threats, malicious endangerment of lives, illegal possession and transport of weapons, and manufacture of weapons.

Meshulam also was found guilty of assaulting officers, firing a pistol and ordering his followers to throw firebombs at police.

The charges referred to events during a seven-week period beginning on March 22, 1994. According to a review of the events included in the verdict,

police were summoned to the street in Yahud where Meshulam lived by a driver whose truck was blocked by Meshulam. The next day, Meshulam summoned dozens of followers to his home. They blocked the street and clashed with police.

Three police were injured and seven of Meshulam's followers were arrested.

Meshulam and his men then armed themselves and barricaded the house. An attempt by police to talk to Meshulam failed and Meshulam's followers threw firebombs at them, forcing them to flee. The next day, the sides agreed on a truce which lasted seven weeks.

On May 5, after Meshulam ignored a summons for questioning, he met with Police Inspector General Assaf Hefetz at a hotel, disguised and armed with two pistols. Hefetz demanded that Meshulam and his followers disarm and hand themselves in.

Meshulam refused and warned that he and his followers "would fight to the last bullet and any police who approached the compound would get a bullet between the eyes." The police then arrested Meshulam and a close aide who had accompanied him to the hotel.

That day, Meshulam's followers fired at a police helicopter hovering over the compound, triggering a gunfight in which one man was killed.

Eventually, the men in the compound surrendered. In convicting Meshulam and his aide, Avner

Uzan, the District Court also found them guilty, together with their followers, of the firefight at the compound after their arrest.

Meshulam appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court. In a split decision, Barak and Justice Dalia Dorner ruled that Meshulam should not be considered a partner to the crime that occurred at the compound after his arrest. That section of the charge sheet was struck, and the active part of his prison sentence reduced from eight to six-and-a-half years.

In 1996, both the state and Meshulam asked the Supreme Court for an additional hearing. In yesterday's verdict, the panel of seven justices overturned the earlier ruling. Justice Eliahu Matza, who wrote the majority decision, dwelled on the definition of what constitutes a perpetrator in a joint criminal act and ruled that Meshulam fit the definition.

He wrote that Dorner had absolved Meshulam and Uzan from the charge of participation in the shoot-out because they had not been present.

"In modern times," Matza wrote, "there is no substantive justification for demanding presence [at a crime]." Technological developments enable the criminal to participate in the perpetration of a crime and even to determine what goes on at the scene of the crime without being close to the scene themselves. They can do so by telephone, computer, fax and even Internet.

Banks must tell customers of charges

The Knesset yesterday passed final reading of a bill under which banks must at the end of each quarter inform their clients of their bank charges, what the charges were for, how much they are, and the way they were calculated. The publication can be carried out via computer or mail.

The bill was promoted by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor). He said the banks had asked the Knesset Economics Committee, which he chairs, to postpone the implementation of the law until the year 2000, but the committee members rejected the request and the bill should come into force tomorrow.

AT THE KNESSET

Giving soldiers raises

Soldiers could be on the way to a pay rise after a decision yesterday by a sub-committee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to double the wages of those doing compulsory IDF service. However, the wage hike idea faces a huge battle in the Finance Ministry and has a long way to go.

The motion was raised by MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui). He said soldiers receive "ridiculous pocket money" and have to rely on their parents for support. A combat soldier currently receives NIS 590 a month; a non-combatant soldier serving in a support capacity in a combat unit earns NIS 430 a month; and a soldier in a rearward unit receives NIS 290 a month.

The subcommittee, chaired by MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), voted to double these amounts over a two-year period, beginning January 1999 by increasing the defense budget.

Harel: Deputy council heads get NIS 150m.

There are between 250 and 350 deputy heads of local councils whose salaries, collectively, amount to some NIS 150 million a year. This figure was presented to the Knesset Interior Committee during a discussion on a bill by MK Yehuda Harel (Third Way) who wants to abolish the position of deputy mayor.

"New York has no paid deputy mayors," Harel said, and noted the wages came from public funds.

A representative of the Interior Ministry said his ministry is consulting with the Finance Ministry on reducing the number of deputy mayors and council heads and the Local Authorities Union is also open to the idea.

Levy: NIS 230m. invested in Ethiopian pupils

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee that his ministry had invested NIS 230 million this year in special activities aimed at Ethiopian immigrants, but he said the system needs greater coordination.

Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said the large sums of money invested in absorbing the Ethiopian immigrant children were not reflected in the findings on the high drop out rate from schools and the low number who pass matriculation exams. She said more resources should be invested in the nursery ages to give the immigrant children an equal starting point.

The ministry's Rahel Schiffer said there are 146,000 immigrant school students, 80% percent from the CIS, 10% from Ethiopia and the rest from various countries. She said 5,000 of the Ethiopian immigrant children learned in the regular state school system and 18,000 in state religious schools. She said the matriculation pass rate among the immigrants had jumped from 6 percent in 1992 to 43% last year.

Dayan: Fund gender equality programs

The Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, chaired by MK Yael Dayan (Labor), yesterday called on the Education Ministry to allocate a NIS 3.5 million budget a year to a program of educating towards gender equality.

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said sexual equality is important and would be given attention as part of the overall values the ministry tries to foster.

Elon accuses Salim of calling for murder

MK Benny Elon (Molodet) has given the head of the police investigations division, Commander Yossi Sidbon, evidence that Hadash MK Salah Salim's call last week that Palestinian land dealers who sell lands to Jews should be murdered was not a one-off slip of the tongue.

Elon sent Sidbon the minutes of a Knesset session from June 2, 1997, in which Salim is recorded saying, "Someone who premeditatedly sells the homeland is a traitor, no matter who he is, whatever religion he is, and should be chopped into minced meat. It's entirely clear." Salim last week also used the phrase "minced meat" to describe what he thought should be the fate of land dealers.

Elon also sent Sidbon a copy of a letter he sent former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair in July 1996 noting that Salim was quoted in a newspaper interview as saying, "I do not rule out the possible use of arms against soldiers serving the interests of the occupying army." Elon did not receive a reply from Ben-Yair.

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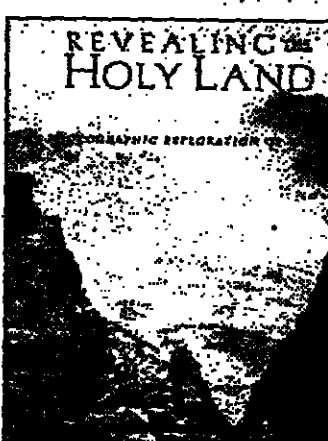


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Planting roots

Five Dutch tourists plant trees at the JNF Hadassah Tree Planting Center in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem yesterday. They are part of a group of 50 Dutch visitors here this week as guests of the Tourism Ministry and El AL, in honor of their having been born on the same day as the State of Israel. Crouching by their saplings from left to right are: Hans Kampf, Paula Sierdsma, Theo Oudejans, Anneke Van Wyngaerden, and Ger Van Driel

(Joe Malcolm)

Dana International denies praising Hitler to UK newspaper

Dana International yesterday denied that she had praised Hitler in an interview with the British newspaper *The Observer*.

She said she had been using Hitler as an example of the thin line between insanity and genius, and had not praised him.

"My words were taken out of context and presented in a distorted way as if I were a fan of his. I deny this with all my strength," she said after *Yedioth Aharonot* printed excerpts of the article yesterday in which she was quoted as calling Hitler a "genius, hero and a brilliant man."

"Hitler initiated and executed the greatest Holocaust of the Jewish people," International said yesterday. "In my opinion, he was an inhumane monster. Hitler was a satanic maniac who succeeded in

enlisting an entire country to destroy the Jewish people.

"It is a shame that now, when I am working for equality and openness, I am portrayed as a fan of the man who represents hatred and racism."

Avner Shalev, chairman of the directorate of Yad Vashem, said that the statements attributed to International strengthened Holocaust deniers and antisemitism, as well as all racists, and hurt democracy.

"The singer Dana International hurt the memory of the millions who were killed in the Holocaust, the hundreds of thousands of survivors and their children, and every sensitive thinking person of our days with her foolish words about the 'heroism' of Hitler, the biggest murderer in Jewish and human history."

(Itim)

MK Weinberg locates lost cousin via Polish documents

Documents found in a Jewish archive in Warsaw helped Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Tzvi Weinberg locate a cousin he had never known existed, who had escaped from the Nazi work camp at Plaszow and eventually settled in Brooklyn.

Weinberg had been part of the delegation of MKs that participated in the March of the Living that visited Poland in April.

During the trip, he visited a Jewish archive in Warsaw and searched for original documents relating to members of his family that had lived in Cracow.

Weinberg was born in Cracow in 1935, but grew up in Chicago.

This past week, Weinberg received a package from the archives of the Institute for the

Research of Polish Jewry in Warsaw, which contained photocopies of applications that his grandmother, uncles and cousins had submitted to the Nazi authorities in Cracow in 1940, to try to prevent their being deported from the city.

The Nazi policy at the time was ostensibly to allow Jews of means or who worked in certain fields to remain in the city.

Most of these relatives were eventually sent to Auschwitz. But the documents led Weinberg to a cousin, 75-year-old Tzvi Meir Weinberg, who lives in Brooklyn. The two were named after the same grandfather.

Weinberg had an emotional phone conversation yesterday

with his cousin, who explained that he had succeeded in escaping from Plaszow, which the Nazis had set up near Cracow in 1942.

During the conversation, Weinberg learned from his cousin that their grandmother, Sara Weinberg, had been shot dead in the street in Cracow in 1942.

She had forged Aryan documents, which she showed to a Nazi officer who stopped her, but the Germans looked at her face, said "You're a Jew," and shot her on the spot.

The institute also sent Weinberg a copy of the 1934 edition of the Cracow telephone book, which includes the numbers of his family's home and his father's factory, which produced street signs and building numbers.

(Itim)

Swiss appeal for calm over Nazi loot probes

By THOMAS O'DWYER

Switzerland got off "to a slow and painful start" investigating its role as a neutral in World War II, but now it seeks the full truth and wants to act in solidarity with the victims of the Holocaust, Swiss Ambassador Pierre Monod said yesterday.

In a briefing for the media in connection with the recent issue of an interim report on the Bergier Commission's investigation into Swiss gold trade with the Nazis, Monod appealed for "a serene climate" in which to conclude the probe.

"We really are doing the job now," he said. "The commission is one of several measures taken by Switzerland in recent years to answer an explosion of charges that Swiss banks looted gold, dormant bank accounts, and other assets left behind by Jews murdered in the Holocaust."

Monod admitted some domestic political considerations did come into play in selling the investigations to the Swiss public, because of coalition members opposed to them.

He said it would also be helpful if the Israeli government could help tone down some of the shrillest criticism of Switzerland from world Jewish organization officials.

"The Swiss government is not directly involved because no payment of taxpayers' money is involved, except the actual cost of the Bergier Commission. If in the future taxpayers' money is involved, any law about it would have to go to referendum," Monod said.

"The quest for the truth is being done without compromise or complacency, in an open manner and with determination," he said. "It's on the international scene."

Monod said over 12,000 enquiries had so far been received about the published lists of unclaimed dormant accounts in Swiss banks, and a few hundred had been paid. "The burden of proof has been lightened," he said.

Monod admitted the banks initially made insensitive rules for claims, such as seeking the production of death certificates.

The Bergier Commission was set up in 1996 to investigate the amount and the fate of assets



Swiss Ambassador Pierre Monod explains his country's position at a press conference yesterday. (Israel Sun)

moved to Switzerland before, during and after the war.

It has four Swiss members and one each from Israel, Britain, the US and Poland. Because of the scope of the investigation, the commission issues interim reports, with the most recent one being issued at the end of May.

That report revealed that up to 1941, the German central bank shipped some 50 tons of gold to Swiss commercial banks.

In 1941, the Swiss central bank stepped in and requested that all German transfers be shipped only to the central bank.

"Bergier has a very wide mandate to look into all aspects of the period," said Monod. "This means

not only the financial role of the Swiss during the war, but also the treatment of Jewish refugees, stolen assets, works of art, the role of the banks, the interest on monies in dormant accounts."

The commission's final report is expected by the end of 2001.

Last week the Credit Suisse Group, the Swiss Bank Corp. and the Union Bank of Switzerland angered Jewish organizations with a "last and final offer" of \$600 million in compensation for Holocaust victims and their heirs.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg called the take-it-or-leave-it tone of the offer "robbery and an evil deed."

Jewish leaders said it was meant to undermine an independent auditing committee for the dormant bank accounts, which is headed by former US central banker Paul Volcker.

Another report prepared for the World Jewish Congress, and due to be released this week, is expected to say the Nazis looted between \$9 billion and \$14b. in Jewish assets in the 20 countries occupied by the Third Reich.

Assets in gold probably amounted to \$150m., 1.2 percent of the total, according to the report's author and former White House economic analyst, Sidney Jay Zabludoff.

The gold would be worth \$1.2b. today.

Huge response to blood drive

By JUDY SIEGEL

The organizers of the blood-testing drive for Keren Ronnen-Rosenberg and 77 children suffering from cancer ran out of test-tubes about an hour before the scheduled end of the campaign yesterday and had to turn people away.

About 7,000 blood samples were donated in more than two dozen Magen David Adom stations and flown late last night to Los Angeles, where they will be tested for tissue type to see if any potential donors can give them bone marrow; the results should be available within a week.

Yesterday's effort increased the number of Israelis in the country's tissue typing databank by nearly 50 percent; their types will be registered in a databank for future use if they're not found suitable to the 78 people who desperately need a donation.

Ronnen-Rosenberg is a 43-year-old wife, mother of five- and 14-year-old sons and weaving teacher at Shenkar College. The 77 children are all registered at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva and also need a life-saving bone-marrow transplant to cure their cancer.

A representative of Round

Table, a voluntary organization taking part in the campaign, said last night that it needs financial donations to help cover the \$35 cost of each blood sample test to determine tissue type. Contributions can be deposited at Bank Hapoalim, branch 718, account number 606000, for "Mivtza Damim."

Jewish cemetery desecrated in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) - Jewish graves were desecrated at a Moscow cemetery maintained by an Orthodox synagogue that was itself damaged in a bomb attack in May, Jewish leaders said yesterday.

Several tombstones were knocked over and antisemitic graffiti was painted on others at the graveyard connected to the Marina Roshcha Synagogue, which is run by Lubavitch Jews, a news release said.

Synagogue leaders believed the vandalism was carried out Friday night, but was not discovered until late Sunday. They said they had not yet determined exactly how many graves had been desecrated.

"We will not cower to cowardly acts of terror," Rabbi Berei Lazar was quoted as saying in a news release. "Lubavitch leaders in par-

ticular will work only harder to ensure that Jewish life flourishes here."

The synagogue, near central Moscow, has been the scene of several attacks in recent years.

The synagogue was badly damaged and two people were injured when a bomb exploded May 13, just minutes after congregants left a holiday celebration.

It was destroyed by a 1993 arson. In 1996, another bomb exploded at the center.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but neo-fascists have been blamed.

The neo-Nazi movement is growing in Russia, where many disaffected youths blame their economic troubles on racial and religious minorities.



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Hanging peace high

Ireland's great peace bandwagon continues to purr along like a Rolls Royce, leaving the Cassandras still wondering when the crash will come.

First there was the 11th hour Belfast Agreement hammered out on Easter eve in April. It was ratified by a resounding referendum "Yes" vote in May from both sides of the border in the divided country.

And this past weekend, the peace people, both Catholic Nationalists and Protestant Unionists, swept all before them in elections for the new Northern Ireland assembly.

The 108-seat body will be the cornerstone of the peace treaty. For the first time in Northern Ireland's history, the Nationalists won more first-preference votes than the Unionist majority, whose intransigent grip on power blew up in their faces in 1969.

In the complex "single transferable vote" system, the Ulster Unionist Party still emerged as the biggest party with 28 seats. But the real fight this time was not between republican Nationalists and loyalist Queen-loving Unionists.

The battle was first between the pro- and anti-peace camps, and that in turn meant it was mainly in the bitterly divided Protestant ranks. The right-wing religious Nationalists (universal peace-haters, it seems) were led to glorious defeat by Rev. Ian Paisley, their loud-mouthed dinosaur with the purchased American theology degree. Paisley's party won 20 seats, while his other allies somewhere to the right of Ghengis Khan won another eight seats.

The leader of the moderate center-right Unionists, Ian Trimble, is the new hero of the peace-brokers of Washington, London, Dublin and Belfast. No one deserves to be first minister of the province more than Trimble. He will head a new 12-seat executive which will forge new ministry-level cooperation with the government in Dublin.

On the pro-peace, anti-peace lineup, irrespective of ethnic loyalties, the good guys won 80 seats and the regressives got 28. That's good news, for had the anti-peace camp managed to get 30 seats, it would have had serious blocking powers in the assembly.

The traditional moderate republican camp, the Social Democratic and Labor Party of John Hume, came in second to Trimble's Ulster Unionists. With 24 seats, Hume will lead an unprecedented bloc of 43 Nationalists.

Up the republic!
Gerry Adams, the most colorful figure of the Catholic minority, who delivered the IRA ceasefire that made it all possible, won 18 seats for Sinn Féin. He probably will get a seat on the executive. (On the eyes of enraged Unionists like Paisley, this is akin to putting

Arafat in Bibi's cabinet.) For Adams himself, the 17 percent of first-preference votes for Sinn Féin is his greatest-ever election triumph.

Therein lies a looming trial of fire for Trimble. The deep divisions within Unionism across this British-run province of Ireland are certain to explode inside his own party once he sits down in cabinet with Adams. Protestants already feel that the peace process has been a one-way street which virtually has handed victory on a platter to IRA sympathizers determined to reunite Ireland.

Republicans do not disagree too noisily. Those of them objecting to the Belfast accords complain mainly that the agreement should have had some formula for accelerating the end of British control in the North. Demography is on their side over time, and the concept of the two referendums, the cross-border bodies, changing population patterns, and the disarray in the Protestant camp, all add up to the Irish beginning to act as the one nation it has not been for centuries. Practically, the border already is invisible.

If the guns are silent, Irish mouths are far from it. Paisley thundered that "our party, the UK Unionist Party and other Unionists will be joining together to utterly destroy this pan-Nationalist front." Even the SDLP leader, John Hume, normally the mildest of men, called the anti-peace parties "fascists."

Hang 'em high
"If they try to stop the process, they would be demonstrating that total fascism would be working in Northern Ireland, because 72% of the people of Northern Ireland voted for this agreement. The whole world will see them as fascists if they try to wreck it," Paisley conceivably might take this as a compliment.

Frank McNally of *The Irish Times* penned some delightful observations of Paisley's rantings during the weekend election. Paisley was for letting everything hang out — or rather, everyone who disagreed with him.

He promised "to nail the hide of Tony Blair to the fence," then added as an afterthought that he would instead "nail the flesh of Mr. Blair and Mr. Trimble to the fence," McNally reported. Paisley expressed regret that a prominent republican had not been hung from a pole years ago, but promised to "hang him from this electoral pole."

With his grip slipping on both his allusions and illusions, Paisley predicted that the peacekeeping members of the coming assembly would be "hung on their own petard."

Here he clearly had lost it. Any Irishman knows a petar is a mine, and that Will Shakespeare though the great sport "is to have the engineer hoist [boom] with his own petar." Political engineer Paisley, take thee care of thy metaphors.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

In God they trust

With 4 million Moslems, 2 million Buddhists and nearly a million Hindus, religion in the US is undergoing a transformation akin to the rise of US Catholicism in the mid-19th century

By MARY ROURKE

With almost no fanfare, the United States is experiencing its most dramatic religious transformation in this century. What has been a nation steeped in the Judeo-Christian tradition is fast becoming the most spiritually diverse country in the world.

"More religions are being practiced in the United States than any place else," says Paul Griffiths, professor of philosophy of religions at the University of Chicago. At least 200 denominations coexist here, and the numbers continue to grow.

The impact promises to be as far-reaching as the rise of the Roman Catholic church in the mid-1800s. Brought about by immigration, geographic mobility, intermarriage and a growing disenchantment with some of North America's oldest religious institutions, this shift is redefining the nation.

The US is now home to almost 4 million Moslems, five times as many as there were in 1970. Close to half are black.

At this rate, by the year 2000, Islam is likely to outpace Judaism, which has leveled off at 5.5 million members.

Two million Americans identify themselves as Buddhists, a tenfold increase since 1970.

Hindus have grown from 100,000 to 950,000 in the same period. Sikhs from 1,000 to 220,000.

"Cultural pluralism is changing America's religious life," says Diana Eck, a professor of World Religions at Harvard University. "It is making our spiritual tradition much richer and broader."

While the US remains predominantly Christian — 85 percent of Americans claim this faith — the same forces that have broadened the nation's religious base are remaking many of Christianity's institutions.

Only about half of Americans, for example, now die in the denomination they were born in. More than three-quarters claim a religious identity but have little to do with any organized religion.

During the last quarter of the 20th century, the country's fastest growing religious communities have been Pentecostal, Mormon and Jehovah's Witnesses. Once churches that served the rural South or the remote West, they are now outstripping such mainstream Protestant congregations as the Presbyterians, Episcopalians and United Methodists, whose numbers continue to drop.

Losses for the United Methodist and the Presbyterian USA church would be even greater if not for the recent addition of Asian immigrants. Korean-Americans now account for close to 1% of the Methodists and nearly 2% of the Presbyterians.

With 60 million adherents, Roman Catholicism remains the country's largest denomination, but there, too, expansion has been largely dependent on immigration. Latinos make up more than 30%



A woman mourns at the Lubavitcher Rebbe's grave in New York this week. More religions are being practiced in the US than any place else.

percent of membership.

At the same time, the Southern Baptist Convention, the country's second-largest denomination with 16 million members, has seen its ethnic congregations, particularly Asian and Latino, grow by more than 50%. They make up about 3 million members of the church.

None of this accounts for the most startling challenge to America's oldest religious structures: the rise of the nondenominational megachurch. In 1990, there were 10. Now, there are close to 400, with California home to 79, more than any other state.

"The old-line churches, by that I

mean Presbyterian, Episcopal and Congregational, won't disappear soon," says Wade Clark Roof, a religion professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

"But their position of dominance won't hold. The old line is becoming the side line. The direction is away from history and doctrine, toward a generic form of religion."

WITH SO many new elements influencing the nation's spiritual life, a growing segment of Americans have started to customize their own faith. Although the numbers remain small, these home-grown innovations are exerting a disproportionate influence on American religion.

There are, for instance, millions of mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics who regularly attend Pentecostal-style services.

Roof, one of the first to identify this trend, refers to spiritual explorers as members of the "Quest Generation." They are, he says, more interested in experience than dogmas.

"The gap is huge and growing between the religious hierarchy and the popular ways people have of believing and practicing. The boundaries aren't quite there the way they used to be."

The unconventional ways of these modern seekers have put them at the center of a fierce

debate — one that cuts to the core of the country's religious identity. Do they represent a passing curiosity or a sea change? Is there anything more to the quest than spiritual narcissism? Should traditional religions adapt, or resist?

"It used to be that people died in whatever religion they were born into," says Martin Marty, a historian of American religion at the University of Chicago. "Today, you're much freer to shop."

Defecting from one church to another once carried the emotional baggage of abandoning home; now, such loyalty carries far less weight.

Marty likens America's religious life to a spiritual marketplace. Other scholars, however, think such imagery belittles a profound shift.

"I strongly object to the shopping metaphor," says Harvard's Diana Eck. "We are becoming a nation shaped by more than one tradition."

Hybrid religion, though, offends many because it ignores fundamental contradictions between one belief system and another.

After all, Judaism embraces a single God; Buddhism embraces none. Christianity teaches one life, death and resurrection. Hinduism teaches reincarnation.

"What is at stake is the identity of a religious denomination," says Lanier Burns, chairman of the department of theology at Dallas Theological Seminary in Texas.

"Christ is the center of Christianity. When you cease to have a Christ center you are not Christian. You make your choices, and you have to live with the consequences."

BY SOME estimates, those who identify strongly with the faith they were born into, but do not belong to any church or synagogue, make up the fastest-growing religious group in the country. Demographers refer to them as the "unaffiliated."

According to a recent Gallup poll, 96% of Americans believe in God and 98% pray regularly, but only 29% attend a religious service every week.

"The unaffiliated represent a huge number of people," says Marty. "They may be very zealous about their denomination and fight like crazy over it, but they see church as only one means of gathering people of like mind into a community."

NO INVENTION poses a greater challenge to mainstream Protestants than the nondenominational megachurch. During the past 30 years, approximately 600,000 left their Protestant church for a megachurch, according to David Roizen, director of the Center for Social and Religious Research in Hartford, Conn.

One of the earliest churches, Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, Calif., was founded in 1965 and attracted refugees from the counterculture.

See RELIGION, Page 8

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Serbs surround Kosovo town

By KURT SCHORK

BELACEVAC, Serbia (Reuters) — Serbian security forces mounted a major operation yesterday, surrounding Albanian insurgents who a week ago captured the key mining town of Belacevac.

The rebels had captured the management building and the workshops of the town's coal mine.

Police used tear gas, the Serb media center in the regional capital Pristina reported, adding that there were no casualties in the operation.

One group of Albanian gunmen withdrew to nearby villages, from which they opened automatic arms fire on police.

Another group was barricaded inside the Belacevac mine and opened fire on police in the early afternoon, the center said.

The operation started early in the morning when police backed by armored personnel carriers, sealed off the road to Belacevac where it joins the main Pristina-Pec highway.

Half an hour later reporters were

prevented from entering Belacevac from the direction of Obilic, northwest of Pristina.

Heavily armed police supported by armed civilians blocked the road and local residents left the area on foot.

The Serb forces appeared to be preparing for a sweep through Belacevac and surrounding villages that are under control of Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrillas.

A number of Serb civilians have been kidnapped by armed gunmen in the Belacevac region in recent weeks.

Belacevac is 10 km west of Pristina and provides coal for two giant power plants that supply Kosovo and other parts of Serbia with electricity.

Reporters standing on a 45-meter high slag heap east of Belacevac could see three houses burning in the villages of Hade and Lismir, adjacent to Belacevac.

Automatic weapons fire and muffled detonations could be heard from the area. Armored personnel carriers appeared to have surrounded the entire Belacevac

area.

Serbian police and civilians involved in yesterday's operation were backed by Yugoslav army units whose armor and heavy guns were seen moving on back roads between Obilic and Vuciturn, north of Pristina.

Two kilometers to the northeast stood the Kosovo Polje monument, which commemorates a historic Serb defeat at the hands of Turks in 1389.

US Ambassador Christopher Hill, who is leading American efforts to dampen the fighting in Kosovo, was due to meet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday, a US embassy official said, without disclosing the agenda.

US sources said he was then due to fly to Pristina to meet a Kosovo Albanian negotiating team.

Western diplomats scrambling to broker a peaceful solution to the Kosovo problem fear that if fighting escalates it might spill over into neighboring Albania and Macedonia, sparking a wider Balkan war.

Veton Surroi, a member of the

ethnic Albanian negotiating team formed to try to agree a peaceful solution to the Kosovo crisis, warned yesterday that the situation threatened to spiral out of control.

"We don't know the exact scope of the operation yet but obviously there is a very great danger of escalation," Surroi told Reuters.

"If this police and military attack continues it will create a military response by the KLA in other areas that could make it impossible to reach any kind of negotiated solution in Kosovo."

Albanians killed one Serb policeman on the Decani Djakovica road on Sunday, the Serb media center reported.

The Albanian information center said Serb forces killed two Albanians, wounded three children and abducted two Albanians during an attack in Drenoc village central Kosovo on Sunday.

The insurgents are fighting for the independence of Kosovo, a southern province of Serbia. Ninety percent of Kosovo's 1.8 million people are ethnic Albanians.



Students waved Chinese and American flags while attending yesterday an address by President Clinton at Peking University. Clinton was challenged by students about America's human rights record and national security policies. (AP)

Clinton gets a grilling

By ANDREW BROWNE

BEIJING (Reuters) — US President Bill Clinton, starring again on Chinese television, yesterday argued passionately for human rights and a "new relationship" with China at an elite university that produces top leaders.

But his audience at Peking University, a hotbed of the 1989 democracy movement crushed by the army, gave him a tough grilling after a speech offered Clinton a second big chance to speak his mind freely on China's airwaves.

Clinton labored intensively over the keynote address of his trip. One aide said he sat up until 3:00 a.m. to craft it personally after a long Sunday's sightseeing.

It did not receive universal acclaim from the youngsters.

One skeptic asked if his friendly smiles masked a plot to "contain" China, reflecting a growing nationalist sentiment among youth in the country.

Another challenged him on America's own human rights record, prompting Clinton to drag up problems of drugs, crime and racial discrimination and admit "we're still not perfect."

Clinton scored points with opponents at home with his forthright condemnation of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre during a one-of-a-kind televised debate with President Jiang Zemin after the summit on Saturday.

Monday's event, also broadcast

live to a potential audience of hundreds of millions, elated the White House, which had feared the abiding image of Clinton's visit would be his controversial red carpet welcome on Tiananmen Square.

"Extraordinary things have happened," spokesman Mike McCurry said. "Things that I'm not sure I can explain."

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs Stanley Roth said the exchanges "will have profound reverberations" and "will be percolating within China for quite some time to come."

Underlining the commercial opportunities presented by improving relations, deals with US companies worth \$2 billion were signed on Monday in the Great Hall of the People.

They included a contract for 27 Boeing aircraft worth \$1.2 billion, although 17 had been announced during a visit by Jiang to the United States last October.

Clinton did not mention the Tiananmen massacre in his speech at a packed auditorium yesterday, focusing instead on the future of Sino-US relations and arguing that individual freedoms were vital to China's emergence as a great power.

"I come here today to talk to you, the next generation of China's leaders, about the critical importance to your future of building a strong partnership between China and the United States," he said. "We want China to be successful, secure and open, working with us for a more peaceful and prosperous world."

Clinton was given a standing ovation before and after the speech which appealed for cooperation on the environment, the global economy, regional security, drugs and crime.

"Freedom strengthens stability," he told the students, half-way through a nine-day visit to China that is rapidly turning into a no-holds-barred dialogue between Clinton and the Chinese people and their leaders.

He has another broadcast date with the people on a local radio chat show in Shanghai today.

Free minds, he said, "is the message of our times and the mandate of the 21st century."

Occasionally thoughtful, hand on his chin, and at other times jabbing the air with a finger, Clinton seemed to enjoy a lively give-and-take that clearly showed Chinese students were no uncritical admirers of the American way despite their Western clothes and newly-acquired taste for McDonald's.

One questioner wanted to know if his statements in Washington that engagement with China was better than containment were true or "do you have any other hidden sayings behind this smile?" "Do you have any other design to contain China?" Amid laughter and applause, Clinton said: "If I did, I wouldn't mask it behind a smile. But I don't. That is, my words mean exactly what they say." Some Chinese see a "containment" plot in Washington to stop China's rise as a world power that could rival the United States.

India denies its ready to accept Kashmir deal

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India yesterday denied it was prepared to discuss with Pakistan converting the so-called line of control in the restive Kashmir region into an internationally accepted border.

"The official line is that there is no change in India's Kashmir policy," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "The official line is that India has a claim on POK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir], and India wants to resolve the Kashmir question through peaceful means."

He was responding to a private television channel's report on an interview with an aide to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, which was due to be broadcast late yesterday.

Home TV said Jaswant Singh, a senior figure in the Bharatiya Janata Party that leads the ruling coalition, had indicated India would be prepared to discuss making the line of control a formal de jure border if Pakistan raised the issue.

"We have to recognize that map-making has to come to a stop on the subcontinent," the television channel quoted Singh as saying in a partial transcript of the interview.

Indian newspapers said Singh had rejected the interpretation of his comments. "At no stage have I said this nor have I implied so," he was reported as saying.

Brakesh Mishra, Vajpayee's principal secretary, told New Delhi Television that the position of the government and all parties in India was that POK should be recovered.

Both Pakistan and India claim the right to rule over Jammu and Kashmir, which has sparked two of the three wars between the countries.

Pakistan has controlled one-third of the Himalayan region since 1947. Islamabad calls the area under its rule Azad (Free) Kashmir, while India calls it POK.

The remaining two-thirds lies within India's Jammu and Kashmir, where more than 25,000 people have died in violence since a separatist rebellion erupted in 1990. Pakistan denies that it arms and trains the guerrillas.

Artillery duels across a cease-fire line between the two parts of the region, known as the line of control, are common.

Serb war-crime suspect hangs self

By CHRISTINE LUCASSEN

THE HAGUE (Reuters) — Serb war crimes suspect Slavko Dokmanovic hanged himself at a detention center overnight while awaiting a verdict in his trial for the 1991 massacre of more than 200 hospital patients in eastern Croatia, the Yugoslavia tribunal said yesterday.

Dokmanovic, 48, a former mayor of the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar, was one of the top suspects among the 28 held by the United Nations court at Scheveningen jail outside The Hague. The judges were due to hand down their verdict on July 7.

The case dies with Dokmanovic, the tribunal said.

"The case is terminated. You cannot pass judgement on a dead person," tribunal spokesman Christian Chartier told reporters.

"We are a legal body. We have to abide by legal standards. And one of the legal standards is that you don't pass judgement on a dead person. The accused is in this case dead, so no judgment, no verdict, no whatsoever."

Dokmanovic was found hanging from the hinge of his cell door shortly after midnight. The tribunal released no further details of

his death, which is being investigated.

Dokmanovic's body, currently in the mortuary of a nearby hospital, is expected to be transferred to his family after possibly undergoing an autopsy.

Arrested almost exactly a year ago in a covert operation in Croatia's East Slavonia region, Dokmanovic had denied complicity in the ethnic cleansing slaughter of mostly Croat patients from Vukovar hospital.

The mass killing was one of the most notorious incidents in the conflict that followed Croatia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia. Prosecutors described it as a crime that evoked harrowing memories of World War II.

Dokmanovic had regularly complained of ill-health and depression during his six-month trial, which began in January and wound up last week. Last Friday, his medication dosage was raised at the request of his lawyer, spokesman Chartier said.

On Sunday evening Dokmanovic complained he felt unwell and was examined by a doctor. He placed Dokmanovic under close supervision, with a warder checking on his cell every 30 minutes.

Dokmanovic was last seen alive at around 11:30 p.m. Shortly afterwards he is believed to have plunged his cell into darkness by short-circuiting the power with an electric razor.

Dokmanovic had been under close supervision once before, following an incident in 1997, Chartier said, without giving details. He said the surveillance, which included camera monitoring, had been lifted after two or three months at the request of Dokmanovic's lawyer and his Belgrade psychiatrist.

Chartier said the tribunal had not been aware Dokmanovic might attempt to kill himself.

"He was not known as a suicidal candidate. He was not described as far as I know, as a suicidal person... It was not a suicide watch," he said.

"This is a detention unit where the accused are kept awaiting their trials. These are not convicted criminals but persons presumed innocent. So that, by any standard, the regime is looser," he continued.

The prosecution contended Dokmanovic and three Yugoslav People's Army officers orchestrated the abduction and murder of the Vukovar hospital patients.

Portuguese shun abortion-reform poll

By RICHARD WADDINGTON

LISBON (Reuters) — The vast majority of Portugal's voters abstained in a referendum on Sunday on whether to liberalize the Roman Catholic country's tough abortion laws.

Adding to the pressure to maintain the status quo, a wafer-thin majority of those who cast a vote rejected the proposal that women should be granted the right to abort on demand in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy.

With only a couple of the country's more than 4,200 districts left to count yesterday, the "No" vote had some 51 percent support against 49% for the "Yes."

But as only some 30% of the country's 8.5 million electorate took part, voters effectively dumped the controversial issue back in the lap of parliament, where moves were already underway to make abortion easier.

A turnout of more than 50% was needed for the result of Portugal's first-ever referendum to be binding on the legislature.

Opposition leaders, who had opposed any relaxing of the law, immediately said they would seek to block attempts at reform in parliament, declaring that the vote

stripped the legislature of the political legitimacy to act.

"It would not be politically legitimate to go ahead," the leader of the conservative Social Democratic Party, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, told a news conference.

His view was echoed by the small, right-wing Popular Party.

The ruling Socialists, who had joined with the Communist Party to win a first parliamentary vote on abortion, immediately rejected the notion that the legislature had no right to proceed. But the Socialists, who are four votes short of an outright parliamentary majority, said that they would only

decide on whether to proceed with the reform in the next few days.

The Socialists, for whom the issue is politically embarrassing due to the personal opposition to reform of Prime Minister Antonio Guterres, a practicing Roman Catholic, had agreed to halt temporarily the legislative process to give Portuguese voters the chance to express their view.

The controversial reform, which was fiercely resisted by the Church, was passed at the first reading in parliament earlier this year. Before becoming law it needs to be approved clause by clause.

Syrian boat carrying 116 migrants drifts to Cyprus

By MICHELE KAMRAS

NICOSIA (Reuters) — Cyprus yesterday took in some 116 foreign immigrants who were found stranded in a boat off its coast after a harrowing 11-day journey during which two people died from hunger and thirst, police said.

The boat, crammed with men, women and children from Middle East and African countries, was found drifting in the eastern Mediterranean on Sunday night.

"Two men aged between 20 and 30 died from lack of food and were thrown overboard two days ago... They were stacked in that boat like sardines. This is flesh trade," a police source close to inquiries said.

The Syrian-flagged boat, named *Ria Allah*, was carrying 110 people and had a six-member crew.

One of the victims, whose brother was also on the boat, was from Zaire, but the nationality of the second man was not known, police said.

The immigrants were identified as being from Iraq, Sierra Leone, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"Some of them had to be carried off the boat because they were so weak," a witness said.

Ten of the passengers, suffering from hunger, dehydration and fatigue, were taken to a hospital in the coastal town of Limassol. Two of them were children. The rest were taken to a local hotel.

Police said they planned to take the captain of the vessel to court later yesterday and seek a remand order against him. He is suspected of carrying passengers on a boat deemed unsafe.

"This was a fishing boat and could not handle passengers, not at least 115 of them with no food, nothing," the police source said.

The trawler had set off from Tripoli in Lebanon on June 18, with its stated destination the Libyan coast.

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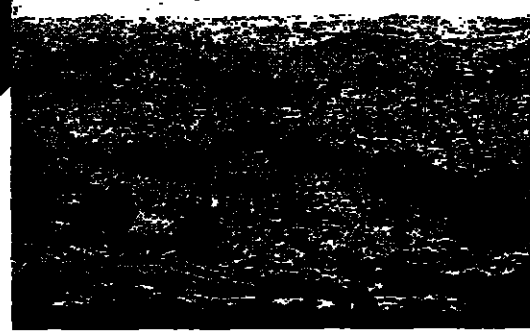

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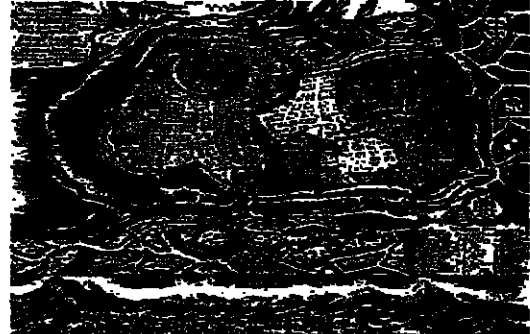
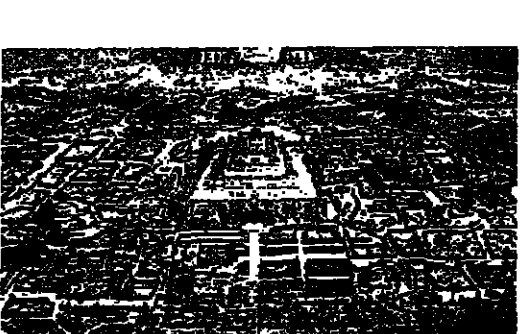
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RELIGION

Continued from Page 6

Living collectively in "Jesus houses," the reformed hippies who flocked to Calvary were looking for help to get off drugs and fit into middle-class society, while still maintaining what University of Southern California religion professor Donald Miller calls "their direct encounter with the sacred."

"Religion" is a word they hate," says Miller of typical megachurch members. "They like 'spirituality,' because it represents something the culture has sucked out of them."

Miller studied five such communities in Southern California for his book, *Reinventing American Protestantism*. Borrowing directly from marketing, most megachurches target their audience: Hippies in the '60s, yuppies in the '70s and '80s, Generation X-ers in the '90s. The audience might vary but the rules are the same: Avoid a central governing body, blur the lines between ministers and members, slice away elaborate doctrines, profess unbending "traditional" values and package it all for a consumer-oriented society.

Meanwhile, the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and Pentecostals were once on the margins of mainstream Christianity. The Evangelical movement was only a bit more visible, despite its 51 million members, in part because most evangelicals were contained by one or another mainstream Protestant church.

But today, these are the most vigorous sector in American reli-

gious life. As membership in the once dominant Episcopal, Presbyterian and Congregational churches declined at the rate of 20% to 40% during the past 30 years, Mormons grew by 90%, Jehovah's Witnesses by 162%, and the Pentecostal Assemblies of God church, by 267%.

In the same years the evangelical movement crossed the 77 million mark.

Moderate Evangelical Christianity - of the sort identified with Billy Graham - is now closer to mainstream religion than is the liberal Protestantism that backlashed such '50s icons as the novels of John Updike and the golf courses of Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidency.

The reversal accompanies a shift in the prevailing winds - from liberal toward conservative Christianity; from ambiguous intellectual probing to explicit moral teachings; from an interpretive reading of the Bible to a literal one; from a low-key approach toward attracting new members to the public promotion of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

PENTECOSTALISM DIFFERS from fundamentalism in its belief that everyday life invites mystical experiences. No Christian community restores this lost dimension with quite the same gusto. "Pentecostalism matches most people's genuine belief in the supernatural," says Vinson Synan, Dean of Divinity at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. "It fills a hunger for the miraculous that transcends anything intellectual. It crosses all social and economic lines."

For most of this century,

Pentecostalism was seen as a sub-culture of the Protestant church.

While it is still a movement within Protestantism (and increasingly Catholicism), there are distinct Pentecostal denominations. The two largest, the Church of God in Christ and the Assemblies of God, include more than 8 million members.

In addition, millions of "charismatic" Christians in the Pentecostal movement maintain membership in a mainline Protestant or Roman Catholic church.

The liberal Protestant churches are addressing feminism and homosexuality," says Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., the second-largest evangelical seminary in the country.

"But these are not the issues of a two-income family with violence, drugs and promiscuity surrounding their children. Pentecostals address the primordial spiritual needs of ordinary people."

SCHOLARS trace America's religious diversity to 1654 when Governor Peter Stuyvesant of New Amsterdam, now New York City, allowed a ship of Brazilian Jews to land in his colony, although it had been created by and for Dutch colonists who worshipped in the Reform Church.

"From then on we've been making room for people," says the University of Chicago's Marty.

"They might arouse suspicion at first, because they're not like us, but over the long run they fit in. Every new religious group has gone through it." (Los Angeles Times)

Racy Chinese paper pushes the limits

By BENJAMIN KANG LIM

GUANGZHOU, China. - "Is anybody lying?" asked *Southern Weekend* in a daring expose of the fake diaries of an 18-year-old Communist "hero."

"How many people are lying? Why are they lying?" the newspaper demanded.

Digging for the truth sets *Southern Weekend* apart from most Chinese state media.

It also makes good business sense: The broadsheet from the southern Guangdong province is one of the hottest-selling newspapers in China with a circulation of more than one million.

Southern Weekend's sensational yet carefully crafted investigative pieces illustrate how a new generation of Chinese journalists, emboldened by capitalist-style economic reforms, are gingerly testing the boundaries of free speech and civil liberties.

In a wider sense, its pages reflect an array of personal freedoms newly on offer in China, a transformation that is often overlooked in a debate in the West over human rights.

"We're constantly testing the limits," said an editor of the weekly, who asked not to be identified.

"If nothing happens, we push it a bit further." The diary story skirted close to the edge - so close it offended the arch-conservatives that lord it over the entire media establishment of China: the propaganda tsars.

Communist authorities in south-

ern Fujian province had embroidered on the real-life story of a teenager who drowned last year while trying to save another boy. Liu Zhishan was reinvented in death as a socialist paragon and used in a propaganda blitz.

Among Liu's many exploits, he was supposed to have offered assistance to an elderly victim of a car crash, fought floods and battled thugs who broke into his school.

Hundreds of thousands of copies of a book were distributed around schools carrying snippets of what purported to be Liu's diary.

"I will not let down the party or the people. I will make sacrifices for the society. I will bend myself back and exert efforts to the utmost," one entry read.

But when a *Southern Weekend* reporter tried to find other examples of Liu's handwriting to verify the diary's authenticity, he drew a blank. Homework, notebooks and examination papers had mysteriously disappeared. The diary was a fake.

Wu Xuecan, a former editor of the *People's Daily*, wrote recently from his exile in the United States that the party was "forcing the virtuous to become whores," by insisting that journalists tell lies.

Indeed, in the *Dictionary of Chinese Journalism*, the entry for "media" states: "Tool of the proletariat." While it is true that most Chinese newspapers still serve as mouthpieces for the Communist party, a few have found a voice of their own - within limits.

"The bottom line is we must back the leadership of the Communist Party, one-party rule, reunification of the country and reform and opening up," a *Southern Weekend* editor said. Top editors at the newspaper declined to comment on the record about editorial policy.

Still, the newspaper airs criticisms of the government that were unthinkable just a few years ago.

A front-page commentary in its June 5 edition, dripping with sarcasm, took a swipe at the state media's handling of natural disasters. Chinese state television and newspapers often tried to get victims to say: "It's the party and the government that saved me. Socialism is superior," the commentary said.

Capitalist countries also launched rescue efforts after natural disasters, but Western media did not quote victims as saying: "Capitalism is superior."

Many of the intrusive controls built up under the late chairman Mao Zedong have disappeared under economic reforms pioneered by Deng Xiaoping, who died last year. Whereas Chinese workers were once assigned a state job for life, now they job hop in the booming private sector. Educated professionals go from city to city in search of career advancement, reflecting new travel freedoms.

Tastes in clothes and fashion are entirely personal - as are tastes in food. Ration coupons have long disappeared.

Chinese can "plunge into the sea" and go into business.

Lately, they have been encouraged to invest in private property by buying their own homes, giving tens of millions of Chinese autonomy over where they choose to live.

"In the past, people were rather careful when they spoke," said Hu Guocheng, a fellow at the prestigious Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a government think-tank. "Now they can say what they like."

SOUTHERN WEEKEND was set up in 1984 with an initial circulation of just 7,000. It shot to fame in the late 1980s, casting in on a hunger for sensational crime news and running a series on the history of the chaotic 1966-76 Cultural Revolution by political scientist Yan Jiaqi, who now lives in exile in the U.S.

Editors once held back a story about a pyramid scheme in Wuxi in the eastern coastal province of Jiangsu because of its political sensitivity. But soon after the official Xinhua news agency broke the story, the weekly stopped its presses and made the scandal its front-page story with far more details.

"That issue sold 10 times the normal quantity in Jiangsu province," the editor said.

"It's an art," he said, of decisions on what to print and what not to print. "You have to know what you can say and when you can say it." (Reuters)

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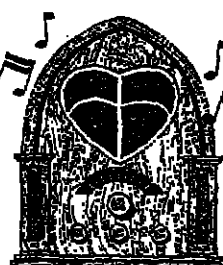
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Young stuff from the old guys

Old Tucson rises from the ashes

In Tune



By David Brinn

Two new discs by veterans prove that there is rock & roll life after 50.

John Fogerty, freed of the legal demons that for years stifled his

PREMONITION

John Fogerty (Red Artz)

WHEN WE WERE THE NEW BOYS

Rod Stewart (Red Artz)

COMIN' ATCHA

Cleopatra (Red Artz)

ability to perform Creedence Clearwater Revival songs, breaks out joyously on *Premonition* with an 18-song, in-concert career retrospective heavy on the classics.

Fogerty and his crack band, including time keeper for the stars Kenny Aronoff, tackle the Creedence back catalogue with professional gusto, intent on getting it right. Occasionally, they are so preoccupied with recreating the sounds that filled the airwaves that some spontaneity is inadvertently lost, like on the note for note versions of "Bad Moon Rising" and "Proud Mary."

But Fogerty is too engaging a performer to keep to the script for long. His exuberance at returning to the classic rock he penned, but hasn't performed for the last two decades, clearly shines through the well-rehearsed facade.

His guitar playing is fine form, ranging from the swamp rock

riffs of "Green River" to the country-tinged "Hot Rod Heart" from his recent comeback disc.

Hidden in the middle of the disc and almost unnoticed amid the hits, are two of Fogerty's finest songs offered here in crackling renditions - "Almost Saturday Night" and "Rockin' All Over the World."

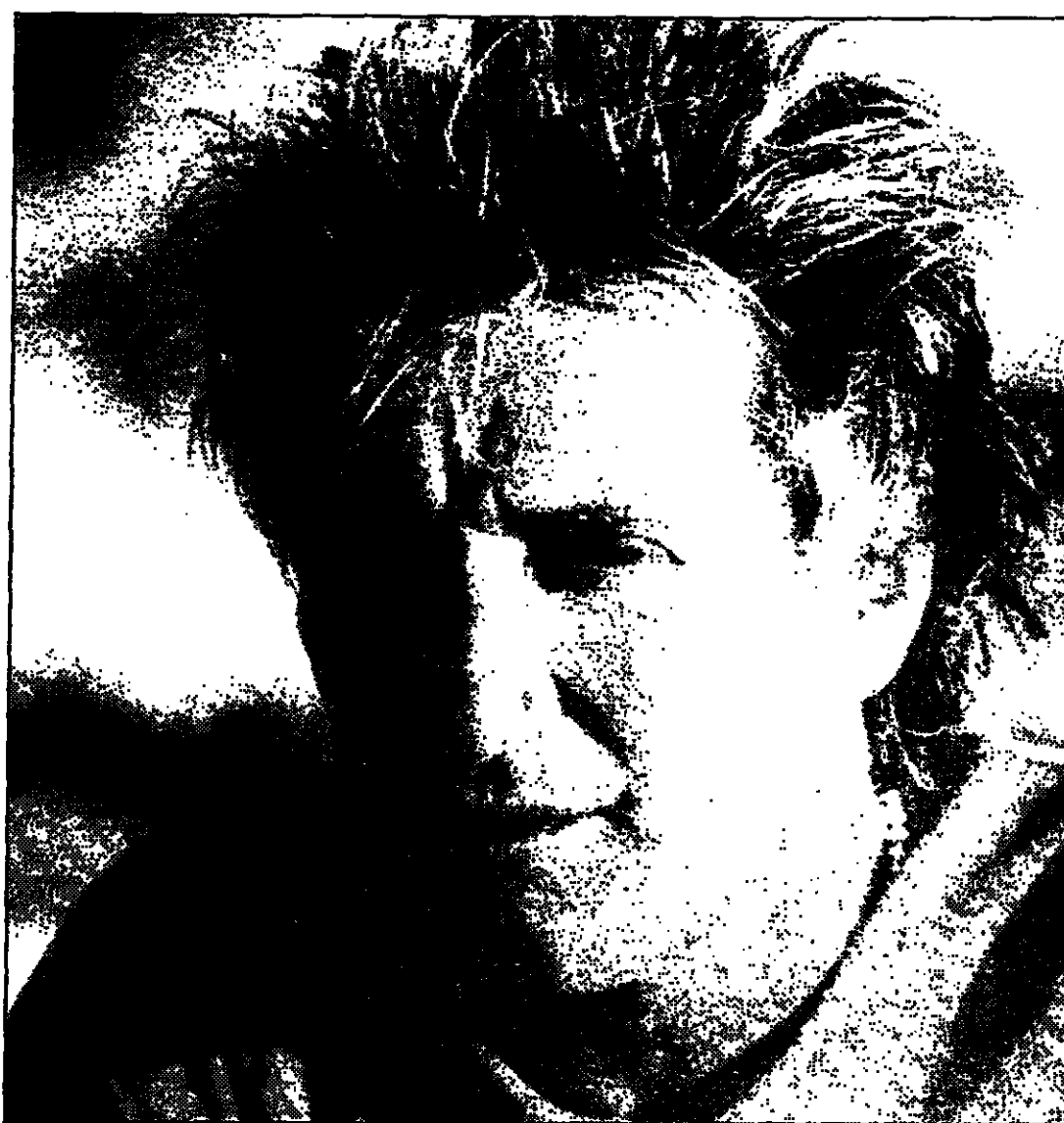
Fogerty appears to be getting younger as he goes along. When asked to give a definition of American rock & roll, one needs only to keep quiet and put on this disc.

If you share the majority opinion that the last great Rod Stewart album was 1971's *Every Picture Tells a Story*, then *When We Were the New Boys* provides hope for the future. That is if he hasn't already squandered years of goodwill with an increasingly soulless showbiz career, which has displayed barely a trace of integrity and which asks the musical question "Do Ya Think I'm Stupid?"

Despite the accolades surrounding Stewart's return to his "roots," the disc doesn't approach his lean and hungry heyday but it does show Stewart is making an effort. His first self-produced disc since *Picture, When We Were the New Boys* utilizes Stewart's interpretive skills on a batch of tough rock songs and ballads by young upstarts (which for Stewart means anyone who's career began after 1975). In addition to some contemporary influence, Stewart fronts a hand-picked band instead relying on anonymous session men.

The result is a return in part to the raunchy Faces-style rock from the early part of Stewart's career. Oasis, Primal Scream and Skunk Anansie are among the latter-day Brit-rockers that Stewart adapts to his still wonderfully gravelly voice. But he also reaches back for some lesser-known nuggets from new wave veterans Nick Lowe and Graham Parker.

What raises the disc above an average take the money and run effort are two tunes - an emotional cover of The Faces' "Ooh La



Rod Stewart looks back wistfully on 'When We Were the New Boys'.

La" in tribute to its author Ronnie Lane, who died during the making of the disc, and the title track which is the sole Stewart-penned composition. Opening up like he hasn't done since "Maggie May," Stewart wistfully looks back at his life, recalling the little details, and he once again becomes that vulnerable kid being kicked out of bed. This time though, there's 30

years of hindsight and the bitter knowledge that the best days are behind him. But if Stewart keeps writing songs like this, he may prove that theory to be nonsense.

ROLL over Hanson, and tell the Spice Girls the news. The latest teen sensation is Cleopatra. Spunky and sassy, the British teenage sister trio also has savvy

pop instincts that belie their youth.

Comin' Atcha contains infectious, confectionary dance tracks featuring spirited vocal harmonies and loads of hummable hooks. Skirting disco, rap and rock, the girls never stray far from good old fashioned Jackson 5 soul ethics. This is the kind of pop you wouldn't mind having your kids bring home.

Ax's exquisite Beethoven



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Conductor: Sergiu Comissiona

Jerusalem Theatre

June 24

accuracy, occasional elasticity and subtleties, sometimes exchanged for fits of speed. Instead of synoptic jazzy springiness there prevailed a certain French charm, appealing, though not precisely Gershwinian.

The *Porgy and Bess* arrangement by Robert Russell Bennett was, contrary to its subtitle, not so much a "Symphonic Suite" as a directionless potpourri of the opera's most popular melodies, strung loosely together without any apparent order or disorder.

Gershwin's music, though jazz-inspired, or jazz-inspiring, does not necessarily have to sound noisy and boisterous, bordering on the vulgar. But that's what the orchestra's rendition did to it in the *Girl Crazy* overture and *An American in Paris*.

THE Yaakov Reuel Scholarship Fund for young musicians, established at the Jerusalem Conservatory to commemorate

this former editor at *The Jerusalem Post*, presented some of its students at its annual prize giving ceremony and concert.

Prize winners were young hopefuls from kindergarten to high school graduation age. These

YAAKOV REUEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONCERT

Bible Lands Museum

June 18

youthful music enthusiasts display a lot of devotion, high motivation and, in some cases, also noticeable talent. Some of them even appeared achievement-oriented - an attitude that some of this school's teachers seem to favor. Technically well-drilled as many of the students sounded, it was in their chamber ensemble playing from the classical repertoire that music's gentler and more appealing qualities were displayed.

For Reuel, a great music lover, always involved in music education and the support of young talents, such a fund is certainly the most appropriate way of honoring his memory.

EMANUEL Ax at the piano celebrates the music with each and every note flowing from under his light fingers - warm, exquisite.

IPO

Works by Britten, Beethoven and Shostakovich

Conductor: Mark Wigglesworth

Pianist: Emanuel Ax

Mann Auditorium

June 25

singing sounds of Beethoven's Second Concerto. This audience-luring composition, sandwiched between two opuses reflecting the tragic 20th-century experience, was the only lively part of the evening.

Young, good-willed and very polite conductor Mark Wigglesworth only hinted at the rest. One could feel that this most talented musician had done his homework, and that the IPO enjoyed playing under his baton.

Yet the anti-war outcry of Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem* did not become desperate and the suffocating totalitarian world implied in the forced rejoicing of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony never turned into nightmare.

Maxim Ryder

IN THE closing lecture-concert of her Classics With Human Dimensions series, the fine pianist Dr. Astrith Baltan presented several versions of Bialik's "Hachsinini tachai kanfech" (Take Me Under Your Wing), revealing the eternal man-

CLASSICS WITH HUMAN DIMENSIONS

Astrith Baltan, pianist

Tel Aviv Museum

June 23

God dialogue in this classic poem. Thus she turned the pure Israeli/Jewish experience (from Nehama Hendel's traditional ballad - to smooth Nurit Hirsch's song - to Rita's postmodernist cosmic loneliness) into universal human experience. And everything was in good measure, so well thought-out, and with a lot of love - collective yet individual.

For her private 50th anniversary celebration Dr. Baltan invited virtuoso clarinet-player, Giora Feidman - the world-famous Israeli musician who has revived the art of klezmer but is rarely asked to perform here.

Feidman is a sad magician, whose music reaches straight to your heart, touching the very essence of human existence.

Maxim Ryder



Orly Perl and Rami Holberger star in the slick comedy 'Popcorn.'

Peppy Popcorn

By NAOMI DOUDAU

Popcorn is the ingenious title of a fast-moving, roller-coaster comedy fraught with endless laughs, lots of libido, titillation, spine-chilling thrills, multiple mayhem and much more besides.

It features a macho filmmaker, Bruce Delamitri (Dov Navon), who, having won an Oscar for his

their own much publicized crimes onto Delamitri and his work, setting the moviemaker up as the real perpetrator.

The social, moral and cultural issues of artistic freedom, weighed against the interest of public good, are the basic message behind this popular prize-winning play by Ben Elton, a British playwright with a growing reputation. However, the Belt Lessin version somewhat downplays the message.

What emerges here, thanks to slick direction (Oded Kotler), witty translation (Daniel Lapin), an ironic, gilt-edged set (Adrian Vaux), smooth choreography (Marina Belkov), sharp costumes (Orna Smorgonsky), and excellent casting, is a highly entertaining production that is more likely to prove this summer's super-hit than any public warning.

Outstanding among the amusing but mainly stereotypical and type-cast performances is Orly Perl's very original, pulsing-with-personality presentation of Scout, the trigger-happy vandal. Perl is a young, little known and certainly up-and-coming artist.

POPcorn
By Ben Elton
Translation, Daniel Lapin
Direction, Oded Kotler
Belt Lessin, Tel Aviv

last bloodsoaked-and-sex-movie, stifles his conscience regarding his films' influence on current crime.

He succeeds until two killer kids (Orly Perl and Rami Holberger) invade his fairy-tale Hollywood home and act out, in deadly earnest, scenes of lust and random slaughter straight out of his films.

The two intend, with the help of TV exposure, to shift the blame for

DANCE REVIEW

Joffrey Ballet of Chicago

'Kismet' by Gerald Arpino

'Unlabeled' by Pilobolus

'Light Rain' by Gerald Arpino

TA Center of Performing Arts

June 27

The Joffrey Ballet moved to Chicago not too long ago but its US and international reputation derives from its former years in New York. This is their first visit (long overdue) to Israel and in program A, the company's artistic director, Gerald Arpino, chose to bring in just a light sampling of their richer repertoire.

Perhaps someone ill advised him that summers in the Middle East are only fit for light-weight

dances, and that's the reason we didn't get to see programs like the superb *Homage to Diaghilev* that includes revivals of works by Bronislava Nijinska (his sister) and Vaslav Nijinski.

Unlabeled by Pilobolus may still work for young audiences, but was out of place and unnecessary for the evening show, especially as

it lacked the polish of the original performance.

The two works by Arpino supplied many pleasurable sights, particularly *Kismet* (line dance) with its folk elements that worked in harmony with the ballet vocabulary. Both works were well-structured, flowed with the music and provided ample chance for the dancers to shine.

Although the company saw better days in the early 1950s, with significant soloists such as Tina LeBlank and Judie Ates, the current ensemble has some good members too, like Maia Wilkins, who danced the *Schnefger Tanz* with tender lyrical qualities enhanced by strong feet.

Some mighty nasty villains have menaced the dusty streets of Old Tucson, Arizona, but there always seemed to be a John Wayne or Clint Eastwood to run them out of town or put them in Boot Hill.

No one in a white hat, however, rode in and saved this Old West movie location and theme park from a real-life culprit: an arsonist who destroyed nearly half of Old Tucson in 1995 and put it out of business for 18 months.

Now, after a \$13 million renovation, Old Tucson is working hard to lure back tourists and to bring in the next *Rio Bravo*, *Gunfight at the OK Corral* or *The Three Amigos*, a major motion picture that can bring in major money.

"Movies are two to three years in the making," general manager Tom Moulton says. "And I think we're still one year away from the big boom."

The old Old Tucson was the backdrop for some 300 movies and television shows since 1939. The new one has an added focus: historic storytelling and concerts featuring such performers as the 50s-style group Sha Na Na and rocker Eddie Money.

Sixteen buildings have gone up, including the Grand Palace Hotel and Saloon, a 450-seat opera house. The makeover includes ponds, a waterfall and other water attractions, and shaded areas for visitors to sit and picnic.

Visitors look at a new exhibit of harnesses once owned by Wayne, replacing others lost in the fire, and Frank Sinatra's long underwear from *Dirty Dingsy Magee*. They watch stagecoaches rolling along Main Street and take in staged gunfights.

On a recent day, however, visitor Lee Piepenbrink found the rejuvenated park had less of an 1880s feel than the original.

"I think they've done a good job of generally rebuilding some of the portions of Old Tucson, but to me it seems an awful lot different from what it was before the fire, and I think the spirit is not quite the same here," says Piepenbrink of Maple Grove, Minnesota, a Tucson native who has visited the park some 20 times.

With paying customers back now for 18 months, it's not exactly high noon for Old Tucson. But the tourist count last year was 390,000, compared with the 459,000 the park drew in 1994.

No big-budget movies have been booked, though location scouts are regular visitors. The best Old Tucson has done lately is a real estate company's industrial video and some commercials, says Moulton, the park's general manager.

"Everything is off this year," says Linda Peterson Warren, director of the Arizona Film Commission. More movie productions are staying in Los Angeles or going to New York for specifically scripted films, she says.

"We've not had a lot of calls for westerns," says Sheri Davis, director of the Inland Empire Film Commission for California's San Bernardino and Riverside counties, with rival locations often used by filmmakers.

"It's a down period," she says. "When it's going to turn, I have no idea."

Old Tucson was built for William Holden's 1939 movie *Arizona* and grew over the years as other movie sets were added. It opened to the public in 1960.

Among the fixtures lost in the fire, which remains unsolved, was its soundstage; it won't be replaced.

Other things can't be replaced, including nearly all of Old Tucson's 10,000-square-foot wardrobe and props collection, ranging from Wayne's pants to Michael Landon's belongings from TV's *Little House on the Prairie*.

But restoration continues. For example, The Reno, an 1872 steam locomotive whose passengers included Presidents Ulysses Grant and Theodore Roosevelt, was badly damaged in the fire. But it will be taken to Nevada as a prop for the movie *The Wild, Wild West*, before it is refurbished, Moulton says.

The front of Old Tucson's mission, considered its signature building prominent in such movies as Steve Martin's *The Three Amigos*, has been rebuilt.

The Victorian-style town hall will showcase Indian artifacts, gems and minerals, a pictorial story of famous lawmen and badmen, and a photographic history of locally-made movies.

Old Tucson's focus as a park is moving toward living history, including gunfights, Moulton says, but it will never forget its movie-set heritage.

"That's why we're here," he says. (AP)

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They came here of their own free will

The North American women immigrants to Palestine in the 1920s and 30s were some of the most determined and idealistic pioneers of that time, Allison Kaplan Sommer writes

Many people think of Golda Meir as the archetypal Israeli woman, a tough pioneer who rose to the pinnacle of political power. But when she first arrived in Palestine, accompanied by 10 pairs of shoes, her fellow kibbutz members at Merhavya rolled their eyes and wondered whether the pampered American would be able to make it in the new country.

According to Dr. Joseph Glass, an adjunct professor at the Department of Geography at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, such reactions were typical of the thousands of American women who arrived in Palestine between the two world wars.

Glass's research, done under the auspices of the Lauder Center for Women's Studies at the university, has focused on North American women who chose to leave comfortable lives for the uncertainties of life in Palestine.

The North Americans who arrived between those wars made up 2.5 to 3 percent of the total Jewish immigration to Palestine at that time. What characterized as a group was their intense idealism and the fact that, unlike the immigrants from Europe who often fled poverty and oppression, the American Jews came of their own free will.

"It wasn't so easy for them to get here," explains Glass, who is also affiliated with the university's Halbert Center for Canadian Studies and the Center for Contemporary Jewry, and is originally from Toronto. "There were only a certain number of entrance certificates allotted to immigrants, and sometimes there were 200-300 candidates vying for 25 certificates. Those who received them were very excited."

"One woman, Dorothy Ruth Kahn, recalled in her memoirs the moment when, after years of waiting, she finally held her certificate in one hand and her passport in the other, leaving America to fulfill her dream."

That idealism took different forms, leading the American immigrants to take varying paths in their new land.

Glass classifies the female immigrants of the time into four groups. The first was made up of older haredi women who came to live out their days in the holy land. Under the auspices of organizations such as Kollel America and Tiferet Yerushalayim, their husbands studied at yeshivot, mainly in Jerusalem and Tiberias, while they kept house.

Even if a woman was widowed she would usually prefer to remain in Palestine, waiting to die and be buried beside her husband, rather than return to her children in North America.

Palestine was generally the third stop for members of this group. Most hailed originally from Eastern Europe, immigrating to the US as children and growing up there.

Few of these women wrote about their experiences and records of their lives are difficult to find, Glass

says. They also were sometimes difficult to distinguish since they blended easily into the community of Eastern European haredim, with whom they shared a great deal in terms of their Yiddish origins and very traditional lifestyles.

IF THE FIRST group of women came to continue their traditional lives in a different location, the second group came with dreams of utopian revolution.

The pioneers who came to the kibbutzim dreamed of creating a society characterized by socialism and equality between the sexes. Golda Meir was part of this group (though her subsequent commitment to sexual equality as a politician and leader has been called into question by feminist critics).

Throughout the 1920s and '30s, groups of women trained in camps in the US that were started by the socialist youth movements with the

Many of the Jews in Palestine felt the Americans demonstrated the true commitment to the Zionist ideal

aim of equipping the fledgling pioneers with the practical skills needed in Palestine.

Golda Meir was atypical in that she didn't engage in manual labor for long before finding her niche in leadership within the Labor Zionist movement.

Most of the women worked in the areas for which they trained in North America: raising chickens, agriculture, or teaching school.

"Over the years I've had an opportunity to meet with these American immigrants, some of whom are still living on their kibbutzim," says Glass.

"What is hard for many of them today is seeing their dream of a wonderful form of socialism going in a capitalist direction."

"For Americans who left a capitalist society to build something new it is particularly hard to see so many of the kibbutzim being privatized."

Glass adds, however, that the women in this group he interviewed did not seem too disappointed that equality of the sexes had not developed to any greater extent within the kibbutz system. In most cases, women stayed in traditionally female jobs.

"There is a sense that this evolved because of the will of the women themselves, and not because they were forced into patriarchal roles," Glass says.

The third group of women were responsible for founding many of

the communities in which English-speaking immigrants live today, such as Herzliya and Ra'anana.

"This was a group of middle-class Jews in the early 1920s, most of them urban, who had a colorful, biblical dream of a rural lifestyle: picking grapes from vines, oranges from the trees."

"They would organize into groups and purchase tracts of land. In addition to Herzliya and Ra'anana, there was Balfouria, just north of Hadera, and Gan Yavne."

"These families had a specific agricultural dream, and both men and women were busy with agriculture and livestock," says Glass.

The lives of these North American immigrants were well-chronicled by women such as Canadian writer Molly Lyons Bar-David, who wrote *My Promised Land* in 1953 and also contributed to *The Jerusalem Post*.

In the book, Bar-David describes her life in the small orchard community of Gan Hasharon, now part of Kfar Saba, to where she immigrated as a child.

"At one point in the book she describes her mother's immigrant experience. She conveys the sense that such women took a very maternal view of the land and its relationship to the people; as she tended the green gardens, taking care of her family, full of hope, at first living in difficult conditions, the dream was very strong for her, as was her sense of fulfillment."

In the late 1920s, the atmosphere changed in these rural settlements. With the Arab riots in 1929, and increased Arab hostility, the idea of isolated pioneer life in the country became less appealing and more immigrants from North America joined the fourth group Glass describes: the urban dwellers.

This group consisted of white-collar workers who brought their professional skills to their new country: medicine, social work, engineering, accounting, and in the case of many of the women immigrants, stenographic and secretarial work.

Their excellent English skills were appreciated in a land that was still under the British Mandate. The members of this group, many of whom came from American Modern Orthodox families, had strong Jewish values and were responsible for establishing some of the major synagogues in the urban centers.

Within this group, Glass notes, was a group of unconventional, older unmarried Jewish women, who contributed significantly to the country.

"These were second-generation American-born Jewish women with good educations who came here to be part of an exciting social experiment and a new nationalism."

Their contributions, Glass says, can be subtly felt in many aspects of society.

Among the most conspicuous was Henrietta Szold's dedication to the Hadassah medical organization, but there were other outstanding



Golda Meir feeds the chickens at Kibbutz Merhavya in 1921: Fellow kibbutzniks wondered if the pampered American would be able to survive in the new country. (Photo reproduced by David Rubinger)

examples, too.

"There was Julia Aharonson, who worked in the field of diets, encouraging new immigrants away from their Eastern European traditional way of eating toward a healthier, more varied diet."

"In education, Deborah Kallan established a school in Jerusalem based on the ideas of John Dewey, and Jessie Sampter, an American Jewish poet who moved to Rehovot in the 1920s, organized activities for young girls and initiated classes to help Yeminite immigrant women learn to read and write and advance themselves."

NOT EVERY immigrant was cut out for life in Palestine. There was return migration, too. Glass estimates that 30-35% of the North Americans left Palestine — a far higher percentage than other immigrant groups — simply because they had the option of returning to a secure life in their country of origin.

They went back for a variety of reasons: an inability to adjust to society or the harsher way of life, or missing family. One individual from frosty Saskatchewan left Ra'anana, she claimed, "because she just couldn't stand the climate."

Like the women on Merhavya who looked askance at Golda Meir's shoes, there was some envy on the part of veteran pioneers and Eastern European immigrants toward the arrivals from the US and Canada. But, Glass stresses, that envy was mingled with respect.

"Because they came here of their own free will from a place like

North America, many of the Jews in Palestine saw the Americans as the demonstration of true commitment to the Zionist ideal."

Dr. Glass is interested in any archival material dealing with the lives of North American immigrants to Palestine between the two world

wars, and requests that any readers with such material contact him through the geography department at the Hebrew University.

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US study: Girls will be boys

By BARBARA VORELDA and LINDA PERLSTEIN

A generation after a great national rethinking of gender roles and the forces that classify children by their sex, the results are in: American girls are behaving more like boys — and it isn't always a pretty picture.

Girls have virtually caught up with boys in math performance and have closed the gap considerably in science. But they are now smoking, drinking and using drugs as often as boys their age. And though they are not nearly as violent as boys, girls are increasingly more likely to find their way into trouble with the law.

A status report released Tuesday by a consortium of universities and research centers describes the nation's young females as a population stepping out of many traditional stereotypes that have defined girls for generations.

"Adolescent girls are getting more of a sense of entitlement in healthy ways and feeling bolder, but some may be acting this out in ways that are not so healthy," said Lynn Phillips, author of "The Girls Report," which compiled the most recent research on girls from hundreds of academic and government sources. "There are ways we want girls to catch up with boys, but there are also ways we want boys to catch up with girls."

Some of the progress girls have made results from public policies and private efforts — to enhance math, science and sports pro-

grams for girls, for example. But more subtle social pressures have also had an effect, pushing girls to follow the less desirable patterns set by boys.

While 13 percent of eighth-grade girls reported smoking in 1991, the report shows that the figure increased to 21 percent in 1996, a faster increase than that for boys. And nearly 17 percent of eighth-grade girls used marijuana in 1996, compared to just over 5 percent in 1991.

In its report, the National Council for Research on Women also found:

While girls are still less likely than boys to be arrested for violent crimes, the rate at which they are being arrested for these crimes increased faster than that for boys between 1986 and 1995.

Girls participate in a wider range of sports and exercise more than ever before, but they still lag far behind boys. And a federal study found that the percentage of high school sophomore girls participating in sports declined from 46 percent in 1980 to 41 percent a decade later, while male participation remained even at 63 percent.

After years of concern about girls trailing boys in math performance, a 1996 test administered by the US Department of Education found no significant differences between average scores for eighth and 12th grade girls and boys.

In science, girls perform about as well as boys until the 12th grade, when boys' average scores pull ahead and more boys excel in science.

Although much of what the new report documents are the problems that face girls, it also challenges many popular stereotypes. It questions, for example, the notion that adolescent girls are doomed to go through a period of low self-esteem, or that the teen years are inevitably filled with anger and stress.

It also makes clear that, despite their convergence with boys on some measures, in many important ways, girls remain very different.

They are twice as likely to be depressed as boys, for example. And a federal survey of high school students found that 34 percent of girls see themselves as overweight, compared to 22 percent of boys. Nearly two out of three of the girls were attempting to lose weight.

Racial differences among girls are important in many instances. African American girls, for example, have more positive perceptions of their own bodies than do white and Hispanic girls. And black girls are significantly less likely to smoke than girls of other races or African American boys.

The report also found that girls are frequently the victims of violent crime. It cited studies estimating that between one third and one fourth of girls are sexually victimized by the time they finish high school. That includes a range of experiences from sexual harassment to rape. Nearly two-thirds of rape victims are under 17 years old, the report said.

(The Washington Post)

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Age is the word

I have to admit, all of this 50th anniversary nostalgia had me temporarily fooled into thinking that I was a tender young thing.

Because of the celebrations, there has been so much dwelling on the historic events of 50 years ago, much of it by people who are still alive and kicking and vital, that it has been easy to sit back in awe of their experiences – and feel far removed from them.

On one hand, I can't help admiring and envying the participation of the pioneers in an event as meaningful and dramatic as the creation of the State of Israel. On the other, I relish the fact that, in comparison, as a fresh creature in her mid-30s, my best days are ahead of me, not behind. No room for nostalgia here – how can you be nostalgic for anything if your life is just beginning?

Then came the rude shock that reawakened me to reality. It came, as it usually does, from the completely silly and irrelevant realm of pop culture. (Native-born Israelis measure their ages by wars and historic peace treaties; we imports can't help it if the passage of our lives is defined by music, television and the movies.)

What did it for me was the publicity trumpeting the fact that local movie theaters would be showing the film *Grease* – 20 years after it was originally released.

Twenty years. I suddenly had the stunning revelation that if one can clearly remember an event that happened 20 years ago, it is nearly certain that one is no longer a teenager. And this fact – more than marriage, mortgage, parenthood, or notices that my high school and college reunions had hit the double digits – somehow made it clear to me that I am grown up – very grown up.

I clearly remember when *Grease* hit the screens in 1978; I had been awaiting it eagerly for years. I had already memorized the soundtrack of the Broadway musical.

I remember how I snickered over how borderline geriatric cases – like Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta – could be chosen to portray 17-year-old high school

students. My friends and I laughed to ourselves about how old they both looked. Of course both actors – and most of the cast – were in their mid-to-late 20s then, much younger than I am today.

My mother will surely chuckle at this – she can see the divine justice in it. What goes around comes around. *Grease*, after all, rode the wave of nostalgia for the 1950s and the birth of rock 'n' roll in the US. Between *Grease* and the hit television series called *Happy Days* we spent much of the Seventies – when we weren't

disco dancing, that is – wallowing in nostalgia for the Fifties. I remember grilling my mom about those ancient, historic Fifties – so long before my contemporary life in the 1970s. After all, the 1950s had taken place so long ago: 20 whole years.

She would show me photographs of herself wearing long poodle skirts and bobby socks and saddle shoes and I would laugh and ask her how she could possibly wear anything that silly. (Of course, what I was most likely wearing at the time would look even more ridiculous today – I was probably in skin-tight Calvin Klein jeans and a shiny polyester print shirt teetering on Candies high-heeled sandals wearing my hair in a Farrah Fawcett flip.)

All of this is enough to keep a female who wants to remain in denial about her age out of the movie theaters and away from *Grease*, even though it would mean passing up seeing a youthful John Travolta full-screen. Seeing it might even drive such a woman to desperate measures – like staying home and watching a World Cup soccer match.

It's enough to stop my constant ridiculing of those middle-aged baby boomers desperate to preserve their youth at any cost, using hair transplants, plastic surgery, and Viagra.

And it begs the question: If we spend the Nineties being nostalgic for a film of the Seventies that was nostalgic for the Fifties – are we really ready for the next millennium? And when the millennium comes, what in the world will we be nostalgic for?

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

Bravo for the 'Ballet Babes'

When a group of strong, successful American women got together and leapt into a field where none had ever trodden before they emerged with more than just slimmer bodies, writes Pamela Warrick



Jeanine Andrisano, left, and Addie Van Gessel celebrate a job well done as classmate JoAnn Miller looks on.

and grand plie, the endless repetitions of relevés and passes, they have learned to trust one another and, most of all, themselves.

During the few years that they have been dancing together, there have been three divorces, five new careers, two pregnancies and one miscarriage.

Attorney Nancy Wolff, 38, helped out with the divorces; Mary Jo Frazier Cambou, 43, a mother of three and family dentist, provided dental advice, and, in one case, the deposit on an apartment to a classmate who wanted out of an abusive relationship but had nowhere to go.

"But this recital was a risk. We suddenly had to learn how to do something where we were not the best." Along with the arabesques

With encouragement from the corps, Sharyn Ober, 34, quit a fast-track management career to go back to school for a doctorate in psychology. Her sister Michelle McMurrey, 38, is a payroll supervisor who joined the ballet class to lose a little weight. Though she lost more than 30 pounds, she says the "self-confidence" she gained means more.

THE WOMEN have cried on each other's shoulders, shared each other up, swapped leotards, stitched up tight, shared advice on men, kids, and stretched muscles. When they're not dancing, they get together

for margaritas and root beer floats, potluck dinners and outings to the ballet, high tea or the occasional Chippendale's performance.

"It is like no class I've ever taught," says teacher Rebecca Yewell Wijnas, 46, who, in addition to choreographing the group's routines, reads class members' fortunes with tarot cards. "The dancing is great for the body, but more than anything, this class is about friendship and about therapy – physical, emotional and spiritual."

It was for physical therapy that JoAnn Miller joined the class in early 1997. Twenty years ago,

when she was 25, Miller was filming a bra commercial that required her to demonstrate the undergarment's firm hold by bouncing up and down on a trampoline. Midway through the last take, Miller fell off the trampoline and broke her back, ending her career as a performer.

Since joining the class, she says, she is moving better and with less pain than she has in two decades. "Why do we do this?" says Harold. "Well, none of us has any dream of becoming a professional dancer at this stage of our lives, but that doesn't really matter. What matters is how we are together, and what we've become."

THE CURTAIN is to go up at 6 p.m., but by 4:15, the Ballet Babes and their one male classmate, Torsten Hoff, already are warming up.

Hoff, a 33-year-old computer engineer, does the lifting for the group. One of the dancers announces she will probably throw up, but, having said it, feels immediately better and never does get sick. Another, dubbed "the powder princess," can't seem to stop throwing baby powder on her feet, legs, back and underarms.

Suddenly, it's showtime. Wolff, the lawyer, is too pregnant to perform, so she has assumed the duties of backstage manager.

"Ladies," she shouts, "it's time to stop talking! I need everybody to line up at the back door – now." The music begins and the ballerinas sweep out of the wings onto center stage. As they offer their unique wood-nymph interpretation of the Smetana piece, Hoff darts about leaping over the women and then lifting them one by one with seeming ease.

A few he lifts over his shoulder, the smallest one – 1.7m, 45 kg. Jeanine Andrisano – Hoff suspends above his head. Others he hoists into mid-air, and lets go. They land lightly, as if tossed onto a cloud; their faces are upturned, their smiles angelic.

After the show, the women run breathless back to the dressing room, where their teacher reports that Yvonne – that's Yvonne Mounsey, director of the ballet school and a former soloist in the New York City Ballet – liked their performance.

"Yvonne liked it? She really liked it?" one of the dancers squeals. "Twice during their near-flawless, nine-minute performance the Ballet Babes were interrupted by applause from an audience that had come to see little girls and saw accomplished, gracefully grown women instead."

No wonder Yvonne liked it. (Los Angeles Times)

Psagot Israel Horizons

Notice of General Meeting of the Holders of the Fund Units

Notice is hereby given that a general meeting of holders of the Fund Units will take place on 8 July, 1998, at 10:00, at the Office of the Fund Manager, Psagot Managers of Mutual Funds-Leumi Igud Ltd., 14 Nachmani Street, Tel Aviv, in order to approve the appointment of Somekh Chaikin certified public accountants in Israel of 33 Yavets Street, Tel Aviv, as the auditors of the Fund.

If, after half an hour has elapsed from the time appointed for the holding of the meeting, no quorum will be present, the meeting will be adjourned for one week to the same day of the following week, at the same time and place, and, if no quorum is present after a half hour has elapsed from the time appointed for holding the meeting, the holders of the units present will be deemed to be a quorum.

Those entitled to attend and vote at the meeting are:

1. A person registered as holder of the fund units in the Fund Managers' register of unit holders.
2. A party lodging at the meeting, a certificate from a stock exchange member granted for the purpose of attending the meeting concerning the holding of units in the Fund through the stock exchange member.
3. A party holding a power of attorney (proxy) to vote from a person entitled to attend and vote at this meeting as mentioned above, provided he deposits at the office of the Fund Manager, at least 48 hours prior to the date appointed for holding the meeting, the power of attorney is entitled to attend and vote at the meeting by virtue of a certificate – the certificate which must be presented at the meeting.

Psagot Managers of Mutual Funds-Leumi Igud Ltd.
Fund Manager

Confront your fear of being unlovable

Dear Ruthie,
I met a man a few months ago in whom I was not the least interested romantically. He kept pursuing me in a number of ways: phoning me, inviting me to accompany him to all kinds of great places for weekends, etc. He even sent me flowers on my birthday – after finding out the date from mutual friends.

My last boyfriend never treated me very well, and finally broke up with me in a hurtful way. Feeling vulnerable and not trusting my judgment in men, I stayed away from them altogether for quite some time. This has been a problem, because I do, after all, wish to have a family some day, and I'm already in my mid-thirties.

Finally, I gave in and went out with my persistent suitor – whose attention, I must admit, was extremely flattering, even when I wasn't interested in the man behind it.

And then something happened. I felt myself opening up again, and I began to develop feelings for him. For about a month, everything went really well between

us – so much so that I thought that maybe he would be "the one."

It was then that he began to lose interest. After all his effort, he simply was no longer infatuated with me.

Now I am back where I started – and more hurt and vulnerable than before. I am now looking for a therapist to help me through this terrible period.

But maybe you could give me some advice.

Love-worn Lovelorn
Somewhere in the US

Dear Worn-out Lovelorn,
The first thing to keep in mind is that a man who exhibits the kind of behavior you describe (i.e. relentless pursuit and immediate backing off as soon as he senses reciprocity) has a serious problem of his own. This problem is entirely unrelated to your own, or to who you are.

Your second order of business is to examine your response to being hurt by men.

Your inclination to stay away from the game altogether as a method of self-protection has been counter-productive emotionally. Rather than preventing yourself from getting hurt, it has made you even less resilient.

This should not be surprising. Whenever we allow fear to govern the way we proceed in life, we become more paralyzed with each subsequent step. And the more paralyzed we become, the more we allow the fear to serve as an affirmation of our lack of self worth.

Undoubtedly you view this last episode the way you viewed your previous bad experience: as proof that your judgment with regard to men is not to be trusted, and that you are in

men is not to be trusted, and that you are in some way unlovable.

With regard to the former: It is probably not your judgment which is faulty, but your

inclination to be drawn to a certain type of man – one who will fulfill your prophesy of being abandoned. For all you know, for example, you only began to be attracted to the once-persistent suitor at the moment you felt him to be losing interest.

With regard to the latter: As long as you feel worthless, this is what you will project to the world. Rather than avoiding this by avoiding members of the opposite sex, you would do well to exorcise the demons that are making you feel this way in the first place.

These are the issues that are worth dealing with in therapy – not to "help you through this terrible period," but to help you proceed without fear.

Letters should be addressed to: Dear Ruthie, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@post.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in In Jerusalem and in City Lights on Fridays.)

Grapevine will return on Friday.

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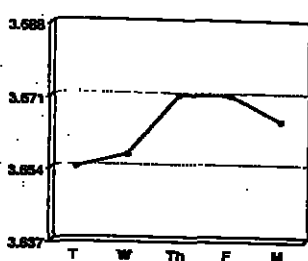
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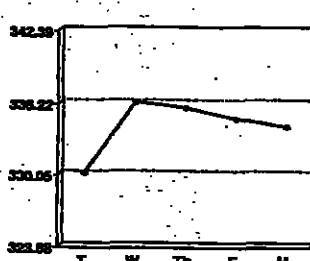
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in brief

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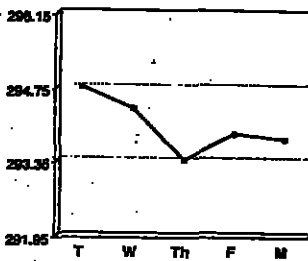


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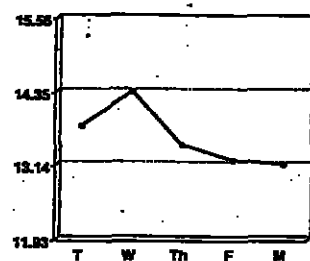
GOLD

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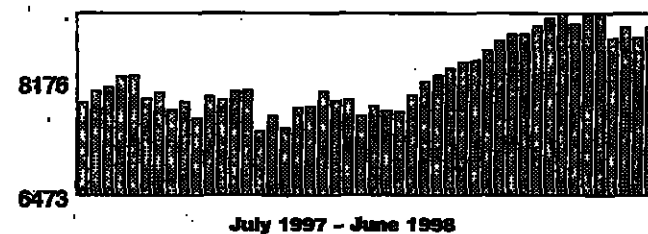
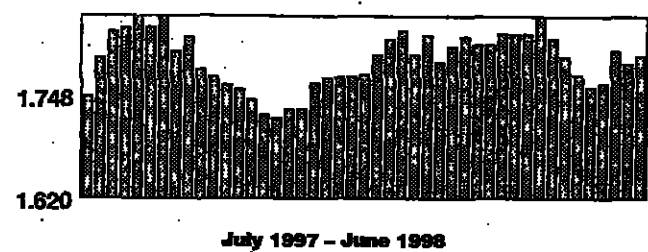


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



Survey: Tel Aviv is most expensive Mideast city

Tel Aviv is the most expensive city in the Middle East, according to a survey published yesterday by the Geneva-based Corporate Resources Group. The organization's Tel Aviv cost of living index reached 109.5 points at the end of March, compared to Tehran (97.2) and Amman and Abu Dhabi (96).

Tel Aviv is now more expensive than New York (100) and ranks 19th in the world, up two places from last year. The most expensive city in the world is Hong Kong (157.4). Tokyo, which was No. 1 in 1997, slipped back (154.3) with the depreciation of the yen.

David Harris

Treasury lifts insurance restrictions

Finance Ministry supervisor of insurance Tripi Samet announced yesterday that life insurance companies will be allowed to invest in the capital market instead of buying government bonds (known as designated bonds), which carry fixed yields. Insurers would also be permitted to gradually end their holdings in designated bonds through early redemptions. Samet estimates that the potential for redemption is between NIS 1 billion and NIS 1.5b. In addition, insurance companies will also be permitted to invest in bank notes.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Spain PM calls for Latin American co-op

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar told Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday that their two countries should work on joint projects in Latin America.

Speaking at a working breakfast in Jerusalem, Aznar said there is room for cooperation, given Israel's technological ability and Spain's production skills. Bilateral trade totaled \$942.2 million last year, according to Treasury figures.

David Harris

Comfy's founder forced to leave

Comfy Interactive Movies announced yesterday that the company's board of directors decided to fire its CEO and president Itai Kohavi, who founded the Givatayim-based company. The company, which develops interactive products for toddlers, said that in line with recommendations presented to the board by a financial consulting firm the company has decided to look for potential buyers for its current activities. The company also said it has decided to cut its expenses by gradually laying off workers.

Dan Gerstenfeld

PowerGen to buy East Midlands for £1.9b.

By EDWARD OHLERAR

LONDON (Bloomberg) — PowerGen Plc., the UK's second-largest electricity generator, agreed to buy US-owned East Midlands Electricity Plc. for £1.9 billion in cash and assumed debt to begin selling directly to homes and businesses.

East Midlands, which supplies electricity to 2.3 million customers, is owned by Dominion Resources Inc., a Richmond, Virginia-based power company, which acquired it in January 1997 for £1.6b., then worth \$2.7b., in cash and assumed debt.

PowerGen is expanding along the length of the electricity chain from generation through distribution to homes, to offset its shrinking share of the UK generation market. The acquisition comes as the company closes in on a merger with Houston Industries Inc., the US's ninth biggest utility with a market value of \$8.6b., according to people familiar with the talks.

PowerGen paid too much for East Midlands," said Kevin Lapwood, an analyst at Charterhouse Tilney Securities. "The price equates to about a 70 percent premium to the asset value of the company. Nobody's ever paid that much before."

PowerGen's shares fell 2 pence to 848p. They had risen from 794.5p a week ago on speculation the East Midlands purchase was close and on hopes of progress in PowerGen's talks with Houston Industries.

PowerGen said it hopes the purchase will be approved by regulators by September. Since the government blocked a similar transaction in the past on antitrust grounds, PowerGen said it will sell 2000 megawatts of coal-fired plant to reduce its influence over wholesale prices.

Dominion Resources, the tenth largest US utility with a market value of \$8b., wants to leave the UK in order to concentrate resources in its rapidly changing domestic market as it opens to competition, analysts say.

Mashav buys Granit Hacarmel shares for NIS 40m., raising stake to 50.1%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Mashav Initiating and Developments yesterday announced that it has raised its stake in Granit Hacarmel to 50.11 percent by acquiring a block of shares and convertible bonds for NIS 40 million.

The move comes following reports that a group of shareholders, led by investor Shaikha Landau and Bank Leumi, is trying to increase its stake in the company in an attempt to prevent

the sale of Mashav's stake to businessmen Moshe Shenef and Eli Aran.

The two signed an agreement earlier this month to purchase the controlling interest in Granit for \$211.26m., a price which was some 55% higher than the company's market value. The deal is expected to be completed today.

Shenef and Aran purchased the stake from Enera-Future Energy and Technology, an affiliate of Mashav.

According to several reports

Shenef and Aran were facing difficulties in their attempt to raise the sum needed to complete the deal. Apparently, Landau and other shareholders in Granit fear that the new owners will start selling parts of the company to try to cover part of their expenses.

Granit buys and imports raw petroleum and markets petroleum goods through Sonol. The company also owns Vulcan Batteries and sells other gases and oils through Granit Hacarmel Holding

and Granite Hacarmel Properties.

In addition, Mashav holds a 50% stake in cement container operator Ta'avura, a 100% stake in Av-Shal Investment and Trade, and 20% of M.E.E. Gas.

Granit reported net sales of NIS 1.839 billion last year, with net income at NIS 51m., which was NIS 1.1m. down on the 1996 figure.

The decision to sell Granit was in line with an agreement signed between Koor Industries and Clal Israel, the country's two largest

conglomerates, to end their joint management of Mashav. At the end of 1997, when the Antitrust Authority ordered the two firms to end joint control of Mashav within four years, they agreed that Koor would sell Clal 25% of its shares in Mashav.

The Antitrust Authority also forced Mashav to sell its holdings in Granit after the sale of the controlling share in Koor to Claridge Israel, which holds a stake in Paz, Israel's largest supplier of refined petroleum products.



Scratching a living

An Indonesian street vendor sells glasses in Jakarta yesterday. Many Indonesians face poverty following the financial crisis which has seen the rupiah fall drastically in the last year.

(Reuters)

Discount sale tender to be issued today

By DAN GERSTENFELD

MI Holdings will issue today the tender for the purchasing of controlling stake in Israel Discount Bank.

Meir Yacobson, general manager of MI Holdings, the company in charge of selling the state's bank holdings, said yesterday that the tender offer will be for a 30 percent to 53% stake in the country's third largest bank.

The bidding groups will have 45 days to submit initial bids.

Each of the bidding groups will have to deposit \$20 million. According to Yacobson, at least two groups of local and foreign investors have already decided to bid for the bank.

He added that he hopes to complete the sale by next year.

Yacobson said the tender will be similar to that issued for the

sale of Bank Hapoalim last year.

One potential buyer is Africa Israel controlling shareholder Lev Levaiev, who already announced last week that he is interested in purchasing Bank Discount.

In the past there have been speculations that financier Eliezer Fishman is also interested in the bank, as well as the Saffa family, banker Jeffrey Keil and South Africa's Investec Group.

The Finance Ministry planned originally to first sell its holdings in Bank Leumi, as Bank Discount seemed to be less attractive since it is considered the least efficient bank in the banking sector.

The shares of Bank Discount have risen almost 30% since the beginning of the year on expectations that the sale of the government holdings will lead to a sharp rise in the bank's value.

Free Zones Council in talks with US group

By NIMA GILBERT

The Free Zones Council announced yesterday that it has decided to launch negotiations with a group of American investors regarding the government concession for the free export zone to be established in the Negev, at an investment of \$1.45 billion.

The group, the Israel Export Development Company, was the only one of eight which completed the pre-qualification tender.

The IEDC originally initiated the idea of the zone in 1992. The government approved the plan in 1995, but then cancelled it a year later, before approving it again in late 1996. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon assumed responsibility for the project last summer and reinvigorated the process.

Heading the IEDC is Larry Silverstein, who owns one of the largest real estate investment

companies in New York. There are another 53 shareholders in the company.

The zone is to be established on a 2,500-dunam area in Likit, with about 7 km northeast of Beersheba. It is to be designated for the operation of industry and services for export, with the aim attracting international companies, especially those which have not yet invested in Israel.

The group said it would establish the project in stages over an eight-year period, with the first site to operate within two years at an investment of \$160 million.

Businesses in the zone will be exempt for 20 years from all types of taxes, except for those dealing with employees and a 15% tax on company dividends.

Dafna Barak, general manager of the council, said negotiations would be concluded within a few months and hopes work can begin on the park within six months.

Compaq, Rockwell to cut 8,800 jobs

By ANDREW BROOKS
and COLLEEN MCILROY

Compaq Computer Corp., the world's top personal computer maker, will fire 5,000 workers and consolidate manufacturing in the first round of cuts designed to meld its businesses with those of recently acquired Digital Equipment Corp.

Meanwhile, Rockwell International Corp. will fire 3,800 workers, take a \$625 million pretax charge and spin off its money-losing semiconductor business as it struggles to find a

strategy to stem declining profit.

Compaq needs to integrate Digital's services business and its high-performance computers while recovering from a glut of PCs that reduced earnings to break-even for the first and second quarters. Compaq said today it will close plants in North America, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

"Integrating all Compaq manufacturing operations into a single, cohesive organization is essential as we build the future Compaq," Chief Executive Eckhard Pfeiffer said.

Compaq expects to cut a total of 17,000 jobs, reducing the combined work force 20 percent to 67,000. The company said this month it plans charges of \$5.4 billion for the \$9 billion Digital purchase plus unspecified charges for a restructuring.

The job cuts at Rockwell, the world's biggest maker of chips for computer modems, amount to 7.9% percent of its 48,000 workers.

The firings are mainly in the company's remaining automation business and its avionics division.

Commerce chamber head Papouchado:

Gas would bolster Israel-Egypt trade

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel's prospective purchase of Egyptian gas could push bilateral trade into the multi-billion-dollar range, Israel-Egypt Chamber of Industry and Commerce President Albert Papouchado said yesterday.

Presently trade volume reaches some \$100 million.

"Gas is the key to a host of other joint ventures in tourism, medicines and the environment," Papouchado said.

While less than two years old, the chamber has been playing an important behind-the-scenes role in attempting to quietly improve trade relations between the neighbors.

"Good economic relations can create wonderful things for both sides," Papouchado said. The chamber maintains that Egypt is the natural partner for Israel in business terms.

"Egypt can supply the raw materials, including oil and gas along with a skilled but cheap workforce. Israel can produce its goods in Egypt cheaply, providing labor for Egyptians. Together we can be an international force," Papouchado said.

The chamber's research suggests that the Israeli-Arab wars



Albert Papouchado cost the Arab world \$300 billion, of which Egypt funded 90 percent. A high percentage of the casualties also were Egyptian.

There is no reason that trade cannot continue to flourish despite the lack of progress in the peace process, he said. Papouchado claimed that Greece and Turkey trade with each other despite their stand-off.

"Egypt imports many goods from France, Japan and elsewhere, which are also produced in Israel," he added. "By purchasing from Israel they will save on transport and will not need to maintain such large stocks."

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM.



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Building Blocks

By NINA GILBERT

JERUSALEM area

The supply in the luxury housing market in Jerusalem is diminishing, and there are only about 50 such properties on the market, according to the recent edition of the bi-annual *Einstein Professional Guide to Luxury Properties*, published by the Canyon Luxury Housing Group. Itzik Levy, managing director of Ambassador Real Estate, which specializes in the luxury market, notes that this market is limited to only a few neighborhoods: Mamilla, Rehavia, Talbieh and the German Colony. In these areas, there are only a small number of new projects, which are either in the final stages of construction or occupancy, he says. These projects include David's Village, where there are 20 apartments still for sale. David's Residence, adjacent to the Hilton, has 15 apartments, and the Jerusalem Heights high-rise still has two penthouses and a few two-room apartments.

Levy said he believes this supply of luxury homes will be sold by the end of the year. Moreover, in these neighborhoods there are very few building starts or projects planned for the rest of the year or in 1999.

However, Shimon Einstein, editor of the guide, noted that prices for all luxury properties in the country have dropped by about 10 percent to 15%, as part of a general slowdown in the real estate sector. According to the guide, apartments in Talbieh in completely reconstructed buildings cost \$5,000 a square meter. In Rehavia, renovated apartments cost \$4,000 to \$4,300 per sq.m. In David's Village, prices are between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a sq.m., depending on the view. In Ramot, a luxurious seven-room 450-sq.m. villa with an indoor swimming pool and jacuzzi was rented for \$3,000 a month to a French investor by RE/MAX. The house, on Rehov Mitzpe Moron, is furnished. The home is also on the market for \$1.1 million.

MODERN area

In Lapid, half of a two-family home on Rehov Hadekei was sold via Century 21 for \$290,000. The home has six rooms plus a basement, for a total of 240 sq.m. of floor space, and sits on a 365-sq.m. plot.

Also in the community, a half-dunam plot for the construction of a home was sold for \$132,000 by RE/MAX. The agency also sold half of a two-family home on Rehov Yam Hatelach for \$238,000. The home has 110 sq.m. of floor space.

A three-and-a-half-room apartment in a high-rise building on Rehov Halevanon in Modi'in was sold for \$151,000 by RE/MAX. The apartment has a luxurious kitchen and a porch. The agency also rented a four-room, 110-sq.m. cottage on Rehov Harei Yerushalayim for \$450 a month.

TEL AVIV and center

Some \$17m. is to be invested in the construction of a 40-dunam retirement community, Protea Village, on land bought from Moshav Bnei Dror in the Sharon area, between Ra'anana and Netanya. The 145-unit complex is to be comprised of ground-level and first-floor apartments and homes which will include gardens and parking. At the center of the village is a three-story building housing an indoor pool, medical facilities, a dining room, cafe, lobby, library, gym, synagogue and areas for social activities. Adjacent to the central complex are two wings for those who need full-time assistance. The project includes a 16-dunam park with a tennis court, bowling green, and picnic area.

According to Robbie Franco, marketing the project for Anglo-Saxon, the park and adjacent educational and shopping mall is making the project more attractive to younger retirees. Purchase of the apartments - from \$190,000 to \$250,000 - is on the deposit system, which gives buyers the permanent right to reside in the complex.

The developers, the Shpender building company, are also building one-family homes, priced from \$369,000 to \$430,000, in an adjacent neighborhood on land bought from the moshav. Eighty-five out of 100 homes, with floor spaces from 180 sq.m. to 200 sq.m., have been sold.

In the Daniel apartment hotel in Herzliya Pituah, a 64-sq.m. studio apartment on the third floor with a view was sold for \$319,000 to a well-known lawyer by RE/MAX. A fourth-floor 30-sq.m. studio apartment was sold for \$160,000 to a diamond dealer from Belgium.

The post-conservative capitalist

Faced with a disintegrating family and a diminishing sense of patriotism, long-time free-marketeers are now contemplating what they once considered economic heresy

By ROBERT L. BOROSAGE

"To worship the market is a form of idolatry no less than worshipping the state." Sound like Jesse Jackson? Perhaps, but it is from *The Great Betrayal*, the recent assault on global capitalism by Reaganite stalwart Patrick J. Buchanan.

The truth is that free markets are creatures of state power and persist only so long as the state is able to prevent human needs for security and the control of economic risk from finding political expression.

Excerpts of a Ralph Nader commencement address? No, from *False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism*, by John Gray, British Thatcherite and leader of Britain's new Right.

"Mr. Chairman I urge you to revoke China's MFN (most favored nation) trade privileges. I do not believe that we are the moneybag democracy Beijing has contemptuously called us. I believe we can act to defend our people, our honor and our interests."

House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., catering to the unions? No, Gary L. Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, and potential new-Right contender for the GOP presidential nomination.

As pundits celebrate the triumph of global capitalism, a populist rejection of what Gray calls "the Washington consensus" is gathering on the Right. With the contradictions between free markets and strong families, between global corporations and love of country growing increasingly stark, more and more conservatives are questioning the laissez-faire corporate globalism that has enjoyed bipartisan support for two decades.

Only a minority of conservatives have thus far embraced this new-Right rejection. But its potential to transform our politics is already seen in the US Congress, where the corporate trade agenda has been stalled by an uneasy coalition of new-Right activists and progressive workers, consumer and environmental movements. As Buchanan and Gray show, the power of the conservative critique of globalism is likely to attract even greater support.

In *The Great Betrayal*, Buchanan scorns the globalist project touted by President Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich as an idolatrous "first cousin to Marxism."



Once universally seen as laissez-faire's Siamese twins, some now distinguish between Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, saying that while the former was 'a conservative with a heart' the latter concocted an overdose of economic freedom. (Camera Press)

For Gray, laissez-faire globalism is, like Communism, a false utopia, sharing "their cult of reason and efficiency, their ignorance of history and their contempt for the ways of life they consign to poverty and extinction."

Buchanan and Gray focus on the new Right's core concern: the disintegration of the American family. The entire conservative family recites what William J. Bennett packaged as the "leading cultural indicators of America": divorce, out-of-wedlock childbirth, crime, drug use, delinquency. The "demoralization of society," as Gertrude Himmelfarb put it, is the staple of conservative rhetoric.

YET CONSERVATIVES have been risible in their attempts to locate the cause of social disintegration. Most blame the poverty programs of the Great Society and the cultural upheavals of the '60s. But as decades pass, that grows less and less convincing. Bennett sporadically turns his attention to the decadence of the media, but has no explanation for why the most stable industrial society, Japan, coexists with the most blood-curdling media.

The Heritage Foundation makes "the breakdown of the American family" a central chapter in its *Issues '98* candidates briefing

book, but is at a virtual loss about cause or solution. Clinton's repeal of a Ronald Reagan executive order on the family gets top blame. Tax cuts, school vouchers and privatization of Social Security are offered as key 1999 reforms.

Buchanan and Gray dismiss this cant. For them, the global free market is the central cause of disintegration.

"In the United States," Gray writes, "free markets have contributed to social breakdown on a scale unknown in any other developed country. Families are weaker in America than in any other country. At the same time, social order has been propped up by a policy of mass incarceration. Levels of inequality resemble those of Latin American countries more than those of any European society."

"Broken homes, uprooted families, vanished dreams, delinquency, vandalism, crime," Buchanan writes, "these are the hidden costs of free trade. And if not families and neighborhoods, what in heaven's name is it that we conservatives wish to conserve?"

The global market, they argue, does not grow organically from society. Its imposition requires the exercise of concerted, centralized state power, in service of powerful

private interests, shielded from democratic controls or social constraints.

Buchanan and Gray denounce global institutions - the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank - as designed to empower unaccountable globalist technocrats to enforce rules that serve multinationals at great cost to society.

"In the global economy," Buchanan writes, "money has no flag. The transnational corporation has no home. It is an amoral institution that exists to maximize profits. If the bottom line commands the cashing of loyal workers after years of service, it will be done with the same ruthless efficiency with which obsolete equipment is junked."

This searing critique of the global market is not original. From Edmund Burke to Karl Marx, social philosophers across the political spectrum have marveled at the revolutionary energy of capitalism and warned of the social and moral destruction left in its wake. What makes Buchanan and Gray fascinating is that they are calling conservatives to arms against corporate globalism.

Gray and Buchanan reflect the growing political frustration of the new Right. Gray indicts Margaret

Thatcher's experiment in laissez-faire for undermining the family, increasing inequality and strengthening the unaccountable state.

For Buchanan, the contrast between Reagan - a "conservative with a heart" - who was the most protectionist president in the post-war era, and the Washington globalist consensus embraced by Gingrich and GOP presidential nominees, is apparent.

Bauer takes this into the political arena. He has called on the radical Right to oppose the core agenda of the corporate globalists: MFN treatment for China, fast-track trade authority, expansion of the IMF. Last fall, fast-track authority was defeated by a Right-Left coalition. IMF refunding is being held up primarily by conservatives demanding antiabortion riders. MFN for China will certainly face strong opposition.

The Gray-Buchanan critique provides the new Right with an economic argument of enormous populist appeal. It also poses a painful choice between money and morality. It is difficult to imagine the GOP, awash in corporate contributions, turning against the corporate globalist agenda.

Already, business lobbyists are warning Republicans that there will be a price to pay if IMF funding doesn't go through, or fast track isn't passed. Bauer and the leaders of the new Right face a hard choice between the corporate money that sustains them and the conservative values they claim to represent.

When conservatives turn to the destabilizing effects of a global economy, they find themselves in what the *Wall Street Journal* scorned as "Halloween coalitions" with progressives. Buchanan, for example, wants Republicans to return to their traditional support of high tariffs, but his agenda for a "new nationalism" begins with a call for full employment, rising wages, a fairer distribution of profits and prosperity and a family wage so that one salary can house, feed and educate a family.

Gray calls for global regulation that will control capital, protect the environment, allow nations to follow their own path and give workers greater security. Together, they echo the "new internationalism" put forth by AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, or the "moral-center politics" of Jackson. (Los Angeles Times)

The writer is a founder of the Campaign for America's Future.

Will time heal Teva's wounds?

Despite the pharmaceutical giant's continued setbacks, analysts remain optimistic

Last February it seemed to be the perfect investment opportunity. The announcement that Teva Pharmaceutical Industries' fourth-quarter net profit was expected to fall below expectations led to a 20 percent decline in its share price.

For investors who specialize in buying stocks when selling-panic occurs, Teva appeared to be the most logical investment. After all, Israel's largest pharmaceuticals manufacturer has been identified for years with steady growth and solid management.

Speculators were not the only ones to recognize its potential. Several analysts rushed to issue "buy" recommendations, saying that the drug maker was trading at a price/earnings ratio that was significantly lower than other drug companies. They predicted that although the company's image had been dented, the management would certainly take the right steps to rebuild its credibility.

Those analysts, however, expressed frustration over the way Teva handled the situation. At that time, the main argument against the company was its failure to warn investors that inventory adjustments at Kupat Holim Clalit would affect results. The frustration was compounded by the fact that Agis Industries, the country's second-largest drug company, issued as early as November a warning that profit may be hurt as Clalit was demanding that it reduce prices.

It was also argued that Teva should have warned investors earlier that the end of an exclusive marketing agreement with Merck, Sharp & Dohme would affect profitability. Analysts added that February's reevaluation was the second time in three months that question marks had hung over the company's reliability noting that when Teva published its third-quarter report it failed to include details about the sales of Copaxone, its multiple sclerosis treatment and most promising product.

ALL THESE warning signs were seen as a one-time setback which would soon be forgotten. Now, five months later, it seems that those who rushed to buy Teva shares at a bargain price simply failed to read the writing on the wall.

The company disappointed investors twice more since then, leading to a decline of some 28% in its share value since the beginning of the year.

Evidence of the shrinking confidence in Teva's management came in the middle of May when Teva reported that first-quarter net income fell 20% to \$25.1 million from \$31.5m. a year earlier.

Following the report, Teva's shares plunged 8.5% on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, but this time the decline was accompanied by an ugly argument between the company and its local investors.

Teva's chief financial officer Dan Suesskind, who is well known for his willingness to share information with analysts and journalists, made an out-of-character slip by saying Israeli investors failed to understand the report. He added that the company will consider in the future publishing its earnings reports first in the US, where Teva's American Depository Receipts (ADR) are traded.

This annoyed local investors, who had supported Teva for years before it became one of the three largest generic drug firms in the US. When Teva's ADR suffered a similar drop in New York it became clear that American investors were also losing faith. Suesskind realized he had made a mistake and hurried to apologize.

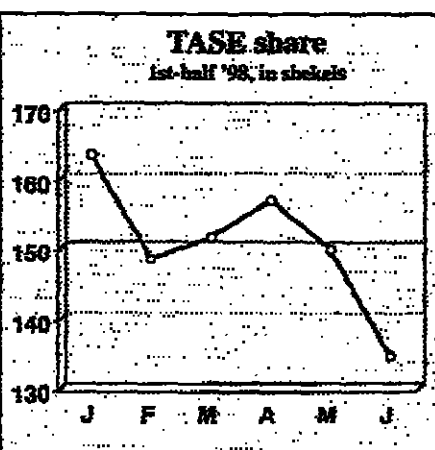
Investors hoped that the company was finally ready to get on track again.

But to everyone's disappointment, Teva failed once more to show improved results and earlier this month it announced that its second quarter results would be adversely affected by a \$30m. drop in revenues from its Clonazepam anti-convulsant drug.

MARKET WATCH

BY DAN SUSSKIND

1997	
Number of workers overseas	5,000
Number of workers in Israel	2,800
Net earnings	\$101.5m.
Net sales	\$1.1b.



fered from a time gap between the decrease in sales of the Clonazepam and the rise of a new drug," Ben-Eliezer said. "I believe that this is an excellent buying opportunity. It's all a question of timing. If the company receives an FDA (American Food and Drug Administration) approval in the next quarter, the picture will completely change."

Ben-Eliezer notes, however, that if none of Teva's products win such an approval, the share might witness further decline in the short term.

According to him, Teva's sales in the local market are improving. Profitability is expected to return to the same level the company enjoyed prior to Merck's deci-

CURRENTLY, market watchers are divided over whether Teva's shares can be considered a secure investment.

Although most analysts believe that in the long run the company will recover and return to a path of improved results, they disagree on when this will take place.

The most optimistic of all these watchers is Shmuel Ben-Eliezer, head of research at Solid Financial Markets. Last week he renewed his "strong-buy" recommendation for the pharmaceutical firm. Ben-Eliezer believes that part of Teva's misfortune can be explained by the fact that there was no immediate replacement for the Clonazepam treatment, which has been in the past its most significant profit product in the US market.

"Teva simply suffered from a time gap between the decrease in sales of the Clonazepam and the rise of a new drug," Ben-Eliezer said. "I believe that this is an excellent buying opportunity. It's all a question of timing. If the company receives an FDA (American Food and Drug Administration) approval in the next quarter, the picture will completely change."

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sion to operate independently in the local market and Clalit's policy of cutting inventories.

DESPITE the recovery in the local market, it is clear that the key to Teva's rejuvenation is its activity abroad. Encouragingly, the company now has 12 products awaiting FDA approval. Each of these generic drug applications being manufactured by Teva and Biovail, with which Teva has signed an agreement, has a market potential of more than \$2 billion.

Local analysts are not the only ones who believe that the company is still attractive. In a report published last week by Lehman Brothers, analyst Richard B. Silver notes that given Teva's long-term growth prospects and its relatively low valuation when compared to other generic drug companies, "Teva provides a sufficient discount to reward long-term investors."

He also says, however, that "until Teva gains new generic product approvals, risk of additional downward earnings revisions could put a lid on near-term stock performance." Support for the claim that recovery may take time comes from other directions. A study recently published in the US by Claudia Mott, a small-cap stock analyst at Prudential Securities, predicts that stocks that sank because they pre-announced a shortfall or reported lower-than-expected earnings, will underperform for at least a year.

According to the report, fewer than half of the stocks that had moved up quickly but subsequently plunged, outperformed their benchmark indexes after a year. The worst news for Teva's investors is that the stocks least likely to bounce back are mid-cap stocks that took a turn for the worse because of downward earnings revisions. Only 21% to 26% of these stocks outperformed their benchmark after a year.

Teva's case may not be dissimilar. Most experts believe that eventually the drug maker will succeed in doubling its revenues every four years, as it has done over the past 12 years, but this recovery may take some time.

This projection is well illustrated by Ben-Eliezer who believes "that on a long-term basis, the current price presents an excellent opportunity for investment in Teva, with patience emphasized as the key word."

Rothschilds '98 net up 40% on mergers

By DAVID CALLAWAY

ZUG, Switzerland - Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG, the holding company for the Rothschild merchant banking businesses worldwide, said fiscal 1998 profit rose 40 percent on a surge in European mergers and global share sales.

The Swiss holding company said profit rose to 155.3 million Swiss francs (\$102m.) in the year ending March 31 from 111 million francs the year before. Operating income for the company, which is private and reports earnings once a year, rose 20% to top 1 billion Swiss francs for the first time.

The gains came as a third year of record takeovers in Europe and state assets sales by governments in Europe and Latin America. Boost fees for advisers like Rothschilds, Rothschilds' two-year-old investment-banking joint venture with ABN Amro Holding NV, called ABN Amro Rothschild, helped boost business for the company in Asia as well.

"It is no coincidence that the independent merchant banking sector is performing well," said Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of Rothschilds. "The more mega-mergers such as those we have seen in the US and Europe take place, the more attractive become the independent houses."

De Rothschild said the company's UK business, N.M. Rothschild & Sons Ltd., had a gain in operating profit to £69.9m. (\$166m.) from £58.7m. the previous year. The company also reported gains in profits in Asia, with the exception of Australia.

Assets under management at Rothschilds' fund business grew to \$37 billion during the year from \$31b. the previous year, particularly in the UK and in Australia. Among the big transactions Rothschilds advised on were the

purchase by Allianz AG, Europe's largest insurer, of France's Assurance Generale de France, and the \$4.5b. sale of shares in Telefonica, the Spanish telecommunications company.

De Rothschild said he doesn't expect the record pace of mergers in Europe to continue, although he expects the company to continue to be active in Europe advising on reorganizations of large corporations as they adjust to changes in the market caused by the introduction of the European single currency next year. He said Rothschilds is eager to expand its businesses in Germany in particular. He also said the company wants to do more business in China over the next few years.

ABN Amro Rothschild, meanwhile, is applying for permission to establish a US operation after setting up businesses in Europe and Asia in the last two years. Tony Alt, co-chairman of the joint venture, said the firm will choose specific industries that it specializes in, such as telecommunications, to try to expand in the world's biggest market.

Alt declined to comment on how much the joint venture, with 130 full-time staff, contributed to Rothschilds' earnings, except to say that it was profitable.

"It's fair to say we've made better progress than we thought we would," Alt said in an interview. "We like to see ourselves in Europe as part of the European bulge bracket."

De Rothschild and Alt said Rothschilds is happy with the joint venture, and there are no discussions with ABN Amro to change the way it is managed.

The company said its private banking business also improved last year, with revenue rising 23% to 108 million Swiss francs and profit of 48 million francs.

(Bloomberg)

DRIVE CAREFULLY!
ARRIVE SAFELY!

Time for some Argie bargy

EVER the patriotic, *Sun* newspaper headlined yesterday with a picture of England's 1966 World Cup winning side parading the trophy with today's national team members' faces superimposed.

On page five, readers are invited to cut out the "Hand of God" and wave it, and on the back page an exclusive reveals that Maradona, the originator of the "Hand of God" wants to become a Premiership manager.

The former world number one player is in France as pundit for an Argentinian television station and has already angered FIFA officials by stating that the tournament is a "stitch-up" and that France were inevitable winners.

As *The Observer* remarked here on Sunday: "Makes a change from a hand-up, eh Diego." It's not often England get the chance to play the "Argies" and the country is in fighting spirit. One hopes that the tabloids have got a more sensitive headline ready than the notorious "Gotchal" which caused a storm during the Falklands War in 1982.

England coach Glenn Hoddle led the way with a comment on the famous Maradona effort from 1986. Hoddle was playing for England on that day and in a press conference on Saturday he chose his words carefully, talking about "redressing the balance" rather than taking revenge. "I'm talking about getting that

result out of our system. I'm sure other players from that day would love to be in the England camp now. I'm fortunate, I was one who was involved and that moment has stayed with us for a long time."

Hoddle has kept faith for tonight's game with the team which decisively beat Colombia which means David Beckham will start.

Before the tournament the Manchester United star was featured all over Britain's billboards advertising a certain brand of football boot. Unfortunately for the company, the boot was very much on the wrong foot when Hoddle left the player out of the side for the first two games, complaining that he was not quite mentally ready for the World Cup. Then came that free-kick, and the advert copy is suddenly spot on: "Historians, it's spelt B-e-c-k-h-a-m".

The respective fans are already camped in St Etienne desperately trying to get tickets above the small 2,000 allocation to each association. More than 1,500 French CRS riot police and gendarmes are on duty to police the estimated 15,000 Argentinian and 20,000 strong English contingents. There's no shortage of rumors

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

THOSE of us neither rich enough nor with aspirations of getting caught up in the trouble have been enjoying the tournament on television – and that means of course the ubiquitous Ron Atkinson, latterly manager of Sheffield Wednesday, and expert TV pundit. Atkinson is to the English language what Lenny Bruce was to comedy, an innovator who shows little respect to linguistic convention. His legendary "it's early doors" and "the keeper was waving to his granny in the crowd," from the 1990 tournament still continues to baffle scholars of modern English usage, and this time round, Big Ron, as he is affectionately known, has not let us down. As Japan was a corner in their game against Argentina, Atkinson casually remarked: "Well they won't be sending the big boys up for this one."

name still continues to baffle scholars of modern English usage, and this time round, Big Ron, as he is affectionately known, has not let us down. As Japan was a corner in their game against Argentina, Atkinson casually remarked: "Well they won't be sending the big boys up for this one."

Atkinson may not be the most erudite, but he knows how to entertain, a concept which the BBC panel, with a backdrop of Paris and snazzy furnishings, seem unable to grasp. Dishy Des Lynam may be the housewives' favorite, but he has not been his usual smooth self this time round.

ONE well-known Englishman who won't be watching the game is Sir Alf Ramsey, who is recovering in an Ipswich hospital after suffering a stroke two weeks ago. Ramsey described the 1966 Argentinian team as "animals" after a game in which their captain, Antonio Rattin, was sent off.

FINALLY, a small piece of basketball news may prove to be a giant leap for British sport. Two of our best players have been drafted by NBA teams – London-based Nigerian Michael Olowokandi was the first on the Los Angeles Clippers draft, and Leicester's 21-year-old center Andy Betts has been drafted by Charlotte Hornets.

Olowokandi only started playing three years ago and has shown all-round sporting ability. You can imagine the American equivalent of Ron Atkinson coming up with something based on Olowokandi or Betts "dunkin'" the ball like it was a biscuit in a cup of tea.

Young, old take to Caesarea links

The seniors (over-50), super-seniors (over-75) and juniors (under-17) club championships were held over the weekend at the Caesarea Golf Club.

Effie Ben stole the honors for the second successive year in the super-seniors with scores of 84 and 79 gross in the 36-hole event. The net winner with a total of 157 strokes was Eli Hasson. There was a nailbiting finish among the 41 entrants in the seniors division. Cyril Kaufman was one stroke behind Mike Bannister after 34 holes in the gross event but made up a stroke on the 35th and won the championship on the 36th hole with 158 with scores of two 79s. Bannister finished with 75 – 84 for 159. In the

net division Richard Fogelson was first with 147 and Nachum Mossinson second with 150.

Fifteen-year-old Shlomi Assayag won the 36-hole juniors championship with an 80-79 gross 159. Eliad Hasson, 17, scored 84-79 gross 163 for second place. The net division was dominated by two 13-year-olds: Eran Salach had a 144 net for first place with Avi Avitan on 145 for second place.

The four-day 72-hole men's club championship begins today with the 36-hole men's and women's championship on Thursday and Friday and a special 18-hole championship for men and women on Friday only.

Heather Chait

Flintoff fires Lancashire title ambitions

LONDON (Reuters) – Hard-hitting middle order batsman Andrew Flintoff fired Lancashire's championship ambitions by leading his county to a four-wicket win over Warwickshire yesterday.

Flintoff hammered 70 off 95 balls as Lancashire, set 336 to win in a minimum of 90 overs on the fourth and last day of their rain-hit game at Edgbaston, surged to success at 338 for six.

Lancashire, putting a poor start to the season behind them, have now won four of their last five championship games to challenge leaders Surrey, who were not involved in the current round of matches.

Flintoff, who completed his half-

century from 68 deliveries, illuminated his innings with eight fours and two sixes. Opener Nathan Wood (79) provided the early impetus and Neil Fairbrother (54) helped to sustain the momentum.

There was a gripping finish at Southgate as Middlesex just failed to capture the final wicket that would have brought victory over Essex.

In another rain-affected contest, Essex made a worthy effort to score 338 to win as all-rounder Rommie Irani struck 104.

Ultimately, their last pair had to play out time with the visitors finishing on 315 for nine.

Sussex moved into third place after bad weather led to a drawn game

against Leicestershire at Leicester.

Facing Leicestershire's first innings of 289, Sussex recovered from their overnight 56 for four to make 302 all out, thanks to an unbeaten 149 by Australian Michael Bevan.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP										
	P	W	L	D	BT	BU	Pts			
Surrey	8	4	2	2	24	26	120			
Lancashire	8	4	1	3	11	24	108			
Sussex	8	3	2	3	15	26	100			
Durham	8	3	3	2	15	31	100			
Leicestershire	8	3	3	2	16	19	96			
Yorkshire	7	3	3	1	15	26	96			
Kent	8	3	3	2	9	27	91			
Gloucestershire	7	2	3	2	9	27	91			
Warwickshire	8	2	3	3	16	26	81			
Worcestershire	7	2	4	1	16	21	81			
Nottinghamshire	7	2	4	1	16	19	79			
Hampshire	7	2	4	1	11	23	78			
Worcestershire	7	2	4	1	14	25	75			
Warwickshire	8	2	4	2	15	21	74			
Derbyshire	7	2	4	1	14	21	70			
Essex	8	1	5	2	20	26	63			
Nottingham	8	1	5	2	10	26	60			
Northants	7	1	5	1	12	14	60			

SPORTS

in brief

O'Sullivan smashes two-mile world record

DUBLIN (Reuters) – Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan clipped took more than eight seconds off the 13-year-old world record for two miles with a time of nine minutes 19.56 seconds at a meeting in Cork on Sunday.

O'Sullivan kicked away from the field in a final 64-second lap to shatter the previous mark of 9:28.15 held by American Lynn Jennings.

American Amy Rudolph and Kathy of Butler of Canada also broke the old mark with times of 9:21.35 and 9:27.18 respectively. Rudolph was challenging strongly until the final lap.

Former England striker Rowley dies

LONDON (Reuters) – Former Manchester United and England striker Jack Rowley has died, the Old Trafford club said yesterday. He was 79.

Rowley scored twice in United's 4-2 FA Cup final victory over Blackpool in 1948 and hit 30 goals in the club's 1951-52 championship winning season. He was capped six times.

Defender Perez joins Blackburn

BLACKBURN (Reuters) – Defender Sebastian Perez joined English premier league Blackburn Rovers from French club SC Bastia in a £2 million transfer yesterday.

Perez, who signed a five-year deal, hopes the move will boost his chances of playing for France.

He said: "I am delighted to be in England and I hope the experience I gain here will enable me to be part of the French squad after the World Cup."

Tottenham sign defender Tramezzani

LONDON (Reuters) – English premier league side Tottenham Hotspur said yesterday they had signed defender Paolo Tramezzani from Italian Serie A club Piacenza for £1.4 million.

Tramezzani said fellow Italian and former Inter Milan team mate Nicola Berti had persuaded him to join the London side.

"Nicola pushed me to make the move and I feel sure it is the right one for my career. He told me about the wonderful atmosphere and said Spurs were a well organized club," Tramezzani was quoted as saying on the club's official talkline.

Tramezzani, who has played more than 100 games in Italy's top flight, began training with his Tottenham team mates yesterday.

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VEHICLES

General

GENERAL

ARIE PALOGUE

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Tel. 050-240-977, Tel/Fax: 052-532-3735

PASSPORT

NISSAN 900 ZX, 1987, T-turb, a/c, electric windows and mirrors, excellent condition, 2 seats, special price. Tel. 03-524-8001 [793157]

1996 FORD ESCORT, active, dark metallic green, 5 gears, power steering, air conditioning, A.B.S., 41,000 km, radio-tape, alarm. The car is in first class condition, special low price. Colin. Tel. 09-742-9517, 052-423-327. [793094]

WANTED NOW – PASSPORT! 7 seater, mini van, automatic, perfect condition. Tel. 03-928-7281. [793117]

BMW 320i, 1990, registered, power windows/steering, radio-cassette, air conditioning, central lock, car in good condition, guaranteed, \$9,800. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

MERCEDES 190E, 1990, automatic, registered, power windows/steering, central lock, air conditioning, radio-cassette, the car is as new, guaranteed, \$9,900. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

SAAB 900S, 1995, 2.3 liters, manual, 12,000 miles, diplomatic owner, American title, bargain \$13,500. Tel. 02-652-3735, 050-240-977 [16647]

VEHICLES

Jerusalem

PASSPORT

DAEWOO SUPER SALON – EXECUTIVE, 1996, automatic, power windows/steering, central lock, air conditioning, electric mirror, ABS, air bag, car as new, guaranteed, \$9,900. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

MERCEDES C220, 1995, automatic, alloy, air bag, power windows/steering, central lock, air conditioning, car is as new, guaranteed, radio/cassette. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

MUSO JEEP 4X4, long wheel base, full extras, as new condition, guaranteed. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

SERVICE FOR TOURISTS storing cars. When you come back, the car will be waiting for you. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

V-W GOLF GTI, 1990, 2 door, manual, power windows/steering, air conditioning, car in good condition, guaranteed, \$4,900. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

UNRESTRICTED
CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH GRAND Voyager LE, 1995, fully equipped, built in child seat, oval air bags, rear AC, new tires, 3.3 cc engine 64,000 km, automatic roof rack. Tel. 08-972-5917. [793118]

MAZDA MPV, 1994, navy blue, 85,000 km, automatic dual AC, ABS, airbags, power windows/locks, sunroof, cassette, alarm, below list price. Tel. 08-972-3525. [793122]

VEHICLES

Jerusalem

PASSPORT

SAAB 900S, 1995, 2.3 liters, manual, 12,000 miles, diplomatic owner, American title, bargain \$13,500. Tel. 02-652-3735, 050-240-977 [16647]

TOYOTA COROLLA GLI, 1996, 1.6 liter, first hand, excellent condition, 73,000 km, AC, radiotele, central locking, alarm and immobilizer, also available passport to passport. Tel. 02-993-3225. [793180]

TOYOTA COROLLA GLI, 1996, 1.6 liter, automatic, 2 air bags, AC, alarm, radio/tape, fully equipped, excellent condition. Tel. 02-993-4475. [793077]

VEHICLES

General

DAEWOO SUPER SALON – EXECUTIVE, 1996, automatic, power windows/steering, central lock, air conditioning, electric mirror, ABS, air bag, car as new, guaranteed, \$9,900. Tel. 052-214-282 (Mark), Fax: 052-214-282 (any time). [792921]

San Diego	53	28	446	5%
San Francisco	48	35	578	13%
Los Angeles	39	42	481	17%
Colorado	36	47	434	25
Arizona	28	54	341	

CRITICS' CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Rebellion is the subject of *The Rebels*, Edna Mazia's new play at the Cameri, a multimedia production directed with imagination and flare by Omri Nitzan on a brilliantly minimalist set by Rudi Dar. The story follows three generations of rebels, the terrorist Lehi underground of the forties, the radical left of the post-1967 generation and the anti-rebel youth of the Nineties whose passion is for living rather than ideologies. Mazia has become a mistress of her craft. The text is poignant, pointed and laced with a wry humor. The acting is tight and generally believable, but in the end the play's theme dilutes into an albeit touching melodrama. On the main stage tonight at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English).



William Weisel and Laya Zilber take on Gershwin in Tel Aviv.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Tenor William Weisel and soprano Laya Zilber go from *Gershwin to Second Avenue* in a medley of English and Yiddish songs interspersed with anecdotes in Hebrew. The music comes from Jewish New York in the Twenties and Thirties. The Hebrew is home grown. Accompanists are Raymond Goldstein on piano and cellist Rolly Margalit. Tonight at ZOA House in Tel Aviv at 8:30 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Tomer Lev's *History's Verdict* concert lecture series reaches its finale at the Tel Aviv Museum in a special concert with the Israel Camerata Jerusalem conducted by Avner Biran. Lev himself will be the soloist in Faure's ballade for piano and orchestra and following a lecture by Moshe Zukerman the orchestra will play rare 19th-century masterpieces. Tonight at 8 p.m.

Home Delivery of

THE JERUSALEM POST

Please direct all inquiries to

Tel. 177-022-2278

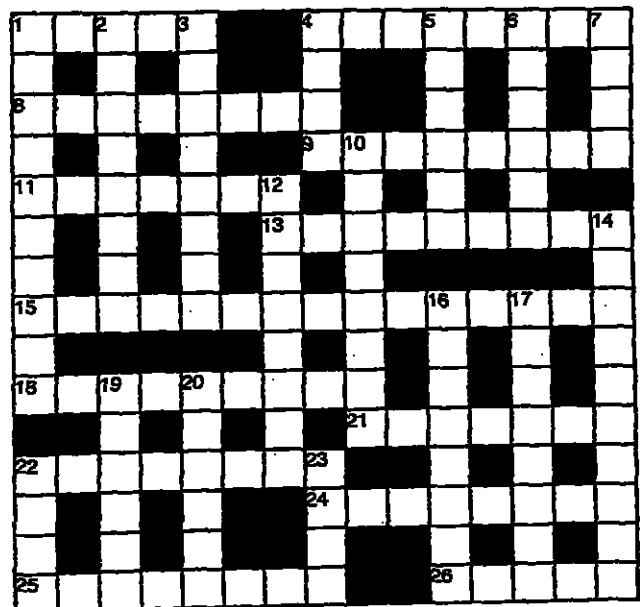
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Company in Greek capital going round under an assumed name (5)
- They give high-jumpers openings (3)
- Then part yourself from a gathering of woman only (3-5)
- Authorise a penalty (8)
- Jack included bumpy ride later (7)
- Making things more equal before night begins? (7,2)
- How goes the enemy? Apparently there's no need to hurry (4,2,2,3,4)
- Got back ground in a rush (9)
- Incomplete fragment Penny points out (7)

DOWN

- Desiring to remove area with the best seats (8)
- From La Scala, Brian went to an area of southwest Italy (8)
- Half hope no girl can be found in island capital (8)
- Shade all over the place—it's very hot here (5)
- How one might be facing punishment whilst bathing? (2,3,5)
- Middleman's politics? (8)
- Pleased I had oil removed from the flowers (8)
- In the foyer, hysterical Welshman (4)
- Pretentious Greek character doubled up (6)



SOLUTIONS

SWAPPING TALENT
M O O O R
A S T O N I S H P A N A M A
S O O O O
T E N D E R P A R A D I S E
S O O O O
S O O O O
T O A D C A P I T A L O N
S A S A H O R S
I M M E R S E D I N D I S T R
K M O O O O O
I O A D O O O O O
M R E A L L A S T E
G R E T T O P L E A S E D

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 German, 4 Hatred, 8 Arson, 9 Onassis, 10 Scourge, 11 Spar, 12 Let, 14 Idea, 15 Iron, 18 Leg, 21 Rich, 23 Inertia, 26 Embrace, 28 Olive, 29 Dingo, 28 Defect.

DOWN: 1 Odanak, 2 Respond, 3 Abnormal, 4 Head, 5 Troop, 6 Desires, 7 Model, 13 Truancy, 16 Outside, 17 Friend, 19 Given, 20 Talent, 22 Cabin, 24 Halo.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Broth (4)
- Hermit (1960s band) (6)
- Marsupial (colloq) (3)
- Eyelid sore (4)
- Undo clothing (8)
- French wine (3)
- Withered (4)
- Portray (8)
- Couidments (4,3,6)
- Astronauts (8)
- Submit (4)
- Political stirrer (8)
- Booyant rhythm (4)
- Dioecious (3)
- Dessert (6)
- Extra (4)

DOWN

- Storming about (2,3,7)
- Forestall (7)
- Hunting dog (5)
- Picture puzzle (5)
- Croat (anag.) (5)
- Cheat (6-8)
- Provide (5)
- Signal (3)
- Reverence (3)
- Puzzle (7)
- Provide food (5)
- Repeated theme (5)
- Scandinavian (5)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

- 8:30 News Flash
- 8:31 News Evening
- 6:45 Good Morning Israel
- 10:00 Programs for the very young
- 11:00 English
- 12:00 French
- 12:30 Science and Technology
- 13:00 Geography
- 13:30 Animation
- 14:30 Bay City
- 15:00 River Horse Lake

CHANNEL 1 (11)

- 15:30 X Men
- 15:50 The Testaments
- 16:30 Boy Meets World
- 16:45 New Evening
- 17:15 France '98

ARABIC PROGRAMS

19:30 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

- 20:00 News
- 20:10 LA Heat
- 21:00 News
- 21:10 Weekly Lotto Draw
- 21:50 France '98
- 22:00 Music: Mirror
- 00:05 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

- 5:45 Today's programs
- 5:55 On the Edge of the Sheet
- 6:00 Animation
- 6:43 Reshet in the Morning
- 6:50 Meetings
- 10:00 Pablo
- 11:00 In Bad Company
- 12:00 Alan Vassalotti
- 12:30 The Boy
- 13:00 My Secret Identity
- 13:30 Home and Away
- 14:00 Junior News
- 14:30 Seaside Street
- 15:00 Cloop
- 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
- 16:30 Different Driving
- 17:00 Five with Flati Reshet
- 17:30 Zehi Zeh
- 18:00 Festival
- 19:00 To Life - giant American gale performance
- 19:30 The 50th anniversary, featuring Michael Douglas, Kevin Costner, Steven Spielberg, Steve Wozniak, Alvin Karpis and Sharon Stone.
- 20:00 Hosted in Israel by Mili Avital and with a 50th anniversary address from US President Bill Clinton.
- 20:30 News
- 20:30 Candid Camera
- 21:00 Dan Shilon Live
- 00:00 News
- 00:05 Degree of Error
- 1:10 Detective on High
- 2:00 On the Edge of the Sheet

CHANNEL 3

- 7:00 ETV: Sex on the Change Elyse
- 8:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
- 9:00 One Life to Live (pt)
- 9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt)
- 10:30 Days of Our Lives (pt)
- 11:15 Angels Don't Cry (pt)
- 12:30 Love Boat
- 12:45 Hart to Hart
- 13:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
- 14:00 Bewitched
- 14:25 Dream of Jeannie
- 14:50 Days of Our Lives (pt)
- 15:30 Judge Judy
- 16:00 Angels Don't Cry (pt)
- 16:30 The Young and the Restless (pt)
- 17:30 The Other Half
- 18:00 Trivia King
- 18:30 Local Broadcast
- 19:00 The Young and the Restless (pt)
- 19:40 Beverly Hills 90210
- 20:05 Sabrina, the Teenage Witch
- 20:30 Beverly Hills 90210
- 21:35 Suddenly Susan
- 22:00 Married with Children (pt)
- 22:30 Siskelot (pt)
- 23:00 Ricki Lake (pt)
- 23:45 Law and Order
- 00:30 Babylon 5
- 1:20 Love Boat

JORDAN TV (31)

(unconfirmed)

- 18:00 Enigma '98
- 18:10 Crew - animation
- 18:40 Little Dave
- 19:00 To Know More
- 19:30 The Boy
- 19:30 Borderline
- 19:30 The Journal
- 19:30 French Show
- 19:30 News Headlines
- 19:35 Games Show
- 20:00 What Would You Do?
- 20:30 Encounter
- 21:00 Current Affairs
- 21:10 Drama series
- 21:30 Enigma '98
- 00:00 Metro Café
- 00:30 Animation

MOVIE CHANNEL

- 19:30 The 3rd Wave
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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

NBA owners
impose player
lockout

NEW YORK (Reuters) — NBA owners, saying that labor negotiations have reached an impasse, decided yesterday to impose a lockout of the players starting at midnight EDT tonight, the league announced.

Owners and players have been meeting for over two months but have made little progress. The last negotiations were held last week and no new meetings have been scheduled.

NBA owners voted 27-2 in March to reopen negotiations and void the remaining three years of the six-year collective bargaining agreement. As a result, the agreement expires at midnight tonight.

Owners had the right to unilaterally set aside the final three years of the agreement if player salaries climbed above 51.8 percent of basketball-related income (BRI). Owners contend that the salaries are increasing at a rate greater than the league's income and want to keep them in check.

Under the lockout, players will not be paid; teams will not be permitted to negotiate, sign or trade any players; team workout facilities will be closed; and teams will not conduct or facilitate any summer camps, exhibitions, practices, workouts, coaching sessions or team meetings.

Germany, Dutch squeeze into last-8

Late goals see Holland beat Yugoslavs, Germany come back against Mexico



TODAY AT THE WORLD CUP

Romania v. Croatia Bordeaux
17:30 (Channel 1, Eurosport)
Argentina v. England St.
Etienne 22:00 (Channel 1)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Germany 2, Mexico 1
Netherlands 2, Yugoslavia 1

TOULOUSE (Reuters) — A last minute goal by Edgar Davids gave the Netherlands a dramatic 2-1 win over Yugoslavia in their World Cup second round match last night.

The game looked destined for extra time until Davids lashed home the winner from the edge of the area.

The shot seemed to take a slight deflection but it was just reward as the Dutch had made most of the chances.

They now meet Argentina or England in the quarter-finals in Marseille on Saturday.

Dennis Bergkamp had put the Dutch ahead in the 38th minute but the Yugoslavs equalized three minutes into the second half when Slobodan Komljenovic headed home from close in after a free-kick.

The Yugoslavs missed a penalty three minutes later, Predrag Mijatovic blasting his shot against the bar.

What had been a dull game was transformed into a thrilling spectacle in the second half, with both sides making glib-edged chances.

Dutch striker Phillip Cocu could easily have scored in the 67th minute when he dived full length to meet a fine right wing cross from Ronald de Boer but sent his header a fraction wide of Ivica Kralj's left post.

Cocu did put the ball into the net in the 79th minute but the goal was disallowed for dangerous play by Bergkamp, who had lifted a foot too high seconds earlier.

The Yugoslavs would have been ahead by that stage had striker Mijatovic not lashed his penalty against the bar. It was the first World



Oliver Bierhoff celebrates after scoring Germany's winning goal against Mexico yesterday.

Cup finals penalty miss in regular time for eight years and followed 38 successful conversions in a row.

Spanish referee Jose Garcia-Aranda had signalled a foul when defender Jaap Stam pulled the shirt of Vladimir Jugovic in the area, although the Yugoslav player stayed on his feet.

The East European side, who went in 1-0 down at half time looking very short of ideas, shed their defensive inhibitions after the interval and equalized in the 48th minute.

Slack Dutch marking allowed defender Komljenovic to rise unopposed at the far post to head home a swirling free kick from captain Dragan Stokic.

"Until then the game had been totally dominated by the Dutch, who took a deserved but slightly fortunate lead

through Bergkamp.

The Arsenal striker ran into the area to meet a long ball from captain Frank de Boer and struggled off Zoran Mirkovic before firing a shot slightly to the right of Kralj, who let the shot slide under his hand into the net.

It was fair reward for the Dutch team's domination of a half which saw the Yugoslavs pack their defense and midfield while leaving Mijatovic alone up front.

After half an hour Clarence Seedorf came close to scoring when he hit a close range shot which Kralj did well to palm away for a corner.

Bergkamp was lucky to escape in the 54th minute when he seemed to stamp on Mirkovic as the two challenged for a ball, but the referee booked the Yugoslav defender instead.

Germany 2, Mexico 1

In Montpellier, strikers Juergen Klinsmann and Oliver Bierhoff inspired Germany to stage another of their legendary comebacks and beat Mexico 2-1.

The three-time champions looked in danger of going out at the earliest stage of a finals for 20 years after a superb goal from Luis Hernandez two minutes into the second half, just reward for Mexico's enterprising football.

But Klinsmann pounced on a mistake by defender Raul Lara to stab home a cross from Dietmar Hamann for the equalizer in the 75th minute.

And with just four minutes left Bierhoff, who hit the bar in the first half with a simple chance, rose to head a cross from Ulf Kirsten just inside the right-hand post to crush

Mexican resistance.

Berti Vogts' men now face the winners of today's quarter-final between Romania and Croatia in Lyon.

"I have to congratulate my team on the way they battled back from what looked like defeat to stay in the competition," Vogts said. "The way they worked for 90 minutes and battled was amazing." "It was hot out there even in the shadow and, despite that, the players gave their all. That was by far our best performance and we will improve further."

Klinsmann added: "That Mexican goal was like a cold shower at the start of the second half. But we showed amazing fighting spirit. There is a huge amount of character in this team."

Hernandez's brilliant individual effort two minutes into the second

half shocked a German defense which had lost veteran Juergen Kohler before the kick-off after he injured himself in the warm-up.

Indeed the Mexicans could, and perhaps should, have gone two up soon after their flexen-haired striker had scored.

The German defense looked sluggish when El Matador picked up a short pass from Cuauhtemoc Blanco and weaved his way past Michael Tarnat and Christian Woerns before firing the ball past German keeper Andy Koepcke.

In the 61st minute the Mexicans might have scored again when substitute Jesus Arellano broke away on his own down the right.

Libero Lothar Matthaus tried to tackle but inadvertently hit the ball goalwards.

Koepcke managed to turn the ball on to the right-hand post and Hernandez weakly fired a second shot into the keeper's arms with the goal at his mercy.

Numerous teams have learnt you cannot give the Germans a second chance, and sure enough they bounced back.

Klinsmann demonstrated he has lost none of his finishing prowess in his last World Cup to score before Bierhoff, the hero of Germany's Euro 96 triumph, underlined he is one of the world's most dangerous players in the air.

Klinsmann and Bierhoff each scored twice in first round matches. But their two goals against the Mexicans may be the most precious they will ever score for their country.

The Germans had their chances to take the initiative in the first half of a match played in afternoon temperatures of more than 30 degrees centigrade.

In the 38th minute wing back Tarnat hit a fierce shot from outside the penalty area which Mexican keeper Jorge Campos did well to save, diving to his left in spectacular fashion to save one-handed.

Two minutes later Bierhoff went desperately close to scoring when he hit the bar with a header with Campos stranded.

Mexico played lively, quick-passing soccer for 90 minutes and were Germany's equal in all areas of the field for long stretches of the game. Campos was superb, but in the end German experience won through.

AIR CANADA

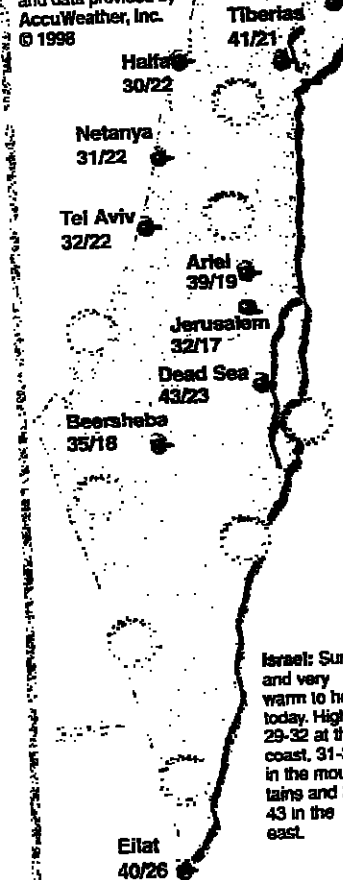
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WEATHER

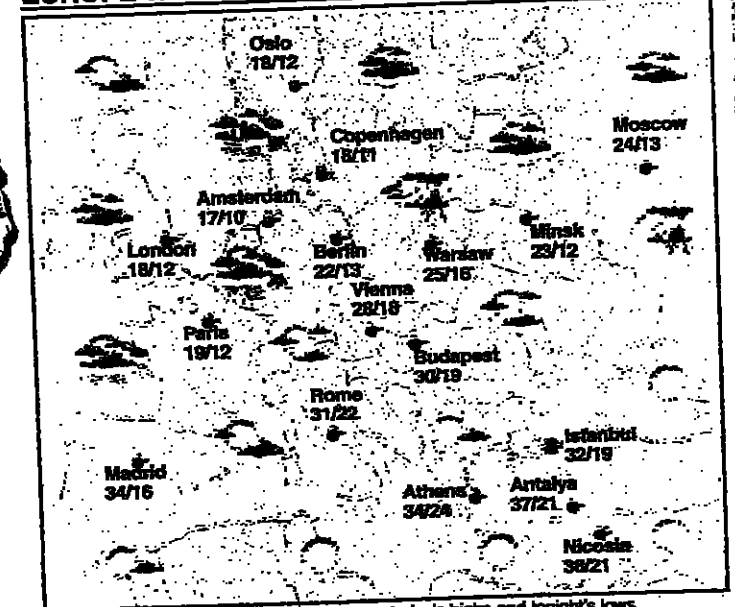
http://www.accuweather.com

ISRAEL

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Wed	High	Low	Thurs	High	Low	Fri	High	Low
Ariel	30/22	30	22	30/22	30	22	30/22	30	22	30/22	30	22
Beer Sheva	35/18	35	18	35/18	35	18	35/18	35	18	35/18	35	18
Dead Sea	43/23	43	23	43/23	43	23	43/23	43	23	43/23	43	23
Haifa	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16
Jerusalem	32/17	32	17	32/17	32	17	32/17	32	17	32/17	32	17
Katmon	30/20	30	20	30/20	30	20	30/20	30	20	30/20	30	20
Nesher	31/21	31	21	31/21	31	21	31/21	31	21	31/21	31	21
Tel Aviv	32/22	32	22	32/22	32	22	32/22	32	22	32/22	32	22
Tiberias	30/20	30	20	30/20	30	20	30/20	30	20	30/20	30	20

Weather (°F): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, fog, snow, sleet, snow, ice.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Wed	High	Low	Thurs	High	Low	Fri	High	Low
Amsterdam	12/5	12	5	12/5	12	5	12/5	12	5	12/5	12	5
Berlin	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4
Bombay	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
Buenos Aires	10/5	10	5	10/5	10	5	10/5	10	5	10/5	10	5
Calcutta	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
Chicago	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16
Frankfurt	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4
Hong Kong	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
London	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4
Los Angeles	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16
Mexico City	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16
Moscow	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4
New York	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4
Paris	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4
Peking	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
Puerto Rico	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
Rio de Janeiro	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
Rome	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4
Sydney	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
Tel Aviv	32/22	32	22	32/22	32	22	32/22	32	22	32/22	32	22
Tokyo	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19	27/19	27	19
Toronto	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16
Winnipeg	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16
Washington	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16	26/16	26	16
Zurich	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4	10/4	10	4

Weather (°F): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, fog, snow, sleet, snow, ice.

Home favorite Henman ousts Rafter

LONDON (Reuters) — US Open champion Pat Rafter was ousted in the fourth round at Wimbledon by local favorite Tim Henman yesterday while world No. 1 Pete Sampras led by example as a posse of seeds advanced.

Rain again stole a 2 1/2-hour chunk out of the All England Club schedule but the seeds on show took it in their stride.

A packed Center Court crowd rose in their seats as 12th seed Henman applied the killer blow to finish off sixth-seeded Rafter 6-3 6-7 6-3 6-2 to make the quarter-finals for the third consecutive year.

"I'm delighted to be through to the quarters but I do feel very relaxed," he said.

"I was definitely very calm and in control of things. I think I'm playing better than I have in the past couple of years." He next meets third seed Petr Korda who ousted John Van Lottum 6-3 6-4 7-6 in the fading light.

Defending champion Sampras charged into the fourth round after a faultless display on Center Court.

The top seed brushed aside 17th-ranked Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-3 7-6 7-6 in a match carried over from Saturday.

He now meets Sebastian Grosjean of France, who upset Spain's Felix Mantilla in straight sets.

Mantilla was one of the rare seeded casualties although his 6-0 7-6 6-2 defeat came as no real surprise.

The Spaniard's seeding of 16 was based on a world ranking of 11 which is almost entirely underpinned by his prowess on clay courts.

In the women's draw, second seed Lindsay Davenport wasted no time in destroying Spain's Magu Serna 6-1 6-0, while Monica Seles justified her sixth seeding by comprehensively beating French 14th seed Sandrine Testud.

The American was runner-up in the French Open earlier this month and continued her resurgence by winning 6-3 6-2 on a day of few upsets.

Men's 14th seed Goran Ivanisevic recaptured the form that saw him reach the final here twice in the early 1990s, beating Daniel Vacek for his 500th career win.

The personable Croat is having fun again. It shows, and after defeating the Czech 6-7 7-6 6-3 6-4 to book his last 16 spot he said: "This is my favorite event to play...and it's the one I believe I can win." He next meets American Todd Martin and confidently added: "If I play like this I am not afraid. He has to play great tennis to beat me." Ninth seed Richard Krajicek, champion in 1996, eased through against



Tim Henman pumps himself up during his fourth-round match with Pat Rafter yesterday. (Reuters)

German Nicolas Kiefer in three tight sets.

The Dutchman, many pundits favorite for the title here, won 6-4 7-6 on Court One.

"I needed my serve today," he smiled after being reminded he has faced just four break points in three matches. "I think I have a chance to do something very nice here."

In the women's draw, Serena Williams became the second of the new teenage dynasty to pull out from the tournament due to injury after Russian 12th seed Anna Kournikova's withdrawal last Monday with a thumb injury.

The 16-year-old American was trailing Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain 7-5 4-1 when she retired due to a calf injury suffered in the third game of the opening set.

Her withdrawal prevented a fourth round clash with elder sister Venus Williams became the second of the new teenage dynasty to pull out from the tournament due to injury after Russian 12th seed Anna Kournikova's withdrawal last Monday with a thumb injury.

after the 17-year-old cruised past Chanda Rubin.

Venus, seeded seven, took just 79 minutes to win 6-3 6-4 and was clearly pleased not to have to face Serena in the next round.

"Serena is definitely the toughest player out there...she's fast and strong and getting better with every tournament," she said.

Jana Novotna, champion on grass at Eastbourne a week ago, advanced, beating Corina Morariu 6-3 6-1 in less than an hour. Natascha Zvereva of Belarus beat Dutchwoman Miriam Oremans 6-4 6-2 and No. 16 seed, Nathalie Tauziat of France beat British No. 1 Sam Smith 6-3 6-1.

The third seed next meets 10th seeded Romanian Irina Spirlea who ousted South Africa's Surina De Beer 6-4 6-4.

French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the women's fifth

seed, found herself in trouble at the start of her third-round match.

The Spaniard was staring at a first set deficit when she trailed Austria's Sylvia Plischke 5-3.

Sanchez Vicario, twice a losing finalist at Wimbledon, held her nerve though and fought back to take the next nine games to move to within sight of a victory. She finally wrapped up the match 7-5 6-2.

"I realized that I had to start going a little more for my shots, and that's what I did," said the six times grand slam winner.

Sanchez Vicario, undeterred by Plischke's charges to the net, spiced her sharp passing shots with some deftly placed lobs, causing the Austrian no end of frustration.

The Spaniard will next meet Belgian 15th seed Dominique van Roost who eased past compatriot Sabine Appelmans in straight sets.